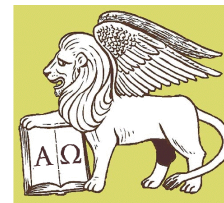


# Winged Lion

*A publication of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Prattville, Ala.*



June 2021

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June is here, and with it comes significant headway in our path back to normalcy at St. Mark's. Bishop G. has given the go ahead to end social distancing at worship as well as masks for those who have been fully vaccinated. In addition, we are returning to the altar rail this month for communion.

These are huge changes for us after 15 months operating our way through Covid-19. It will be so good to see your smiling faces again. Our new organist, Jana Turner, jokes that she will have to start learning our names again once she can see our entire face.

Of course if you and your family wish to continue wearing a mask, perhaps to support an unvaccinated child or you just aren't quite ready, no one at St. Mark's will think any less of you.

The one thing I have been so proud of during this time is how, agree or disagree, everyone has been respectful of their fellow members. We are indeed a family at St. Mark's, and I love that about us.

We will no longer separate the pews by every other row. Coffee hour after the 8:30 service will return by the end of the month (provided we get enough volunteers). Lemonade in the Shade will resume after the 11a.m. service in July, August and September.

Vestry is closely examining ways in which we can have some upcoming fellowship opportunities, including a parish picnic later this

## FROM THE RECTOR

month. Of course, you know me, I get excited about any thing having to do with food! I expect us to be back on track with our regular fellowship activities with a full agenda this fall, plus some new ideas that I'm excited about (more about those later).

One thing I don't want to do is to gloss over the loss some of us have known because of the pandemic.

I am looking at a possible evening service in the fall in which we can mourn the losses people experienced in their families or amongst their friends.

Fortunately, we have not lost any of our members to Covid, and I am praying that holds true until this is indeed a thing of the past. I will let you know more about the service once I have more details.

The thing about being a Christian is understanding that no tragedy has the final word over us. What is it St. Paul said to the Church in Romans: "Nothing, not death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come... can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ. Nothing in life, not even death itself, can take away the love God has for each of us."

That is always worth celebrating, even in the most difficult of times.

I have seen that love manifested here at St. Mark's in the long months of the pandemic in parishioners offering to pick up groceries and medicines for one another, checking on the homebound, driving fellow members to doctors appointments, making meals for those who were sick or who lost loved ones, finding creative ways to celebrate our common life.

Who can forget the lip-synch video Todd Childers put together of us singing "This little light of Mine" or the faux congregation gathered by the Jan Byrne and Jim Plexico, the Faulks, and the Byards?

Or how about the tremendous new addition of the Stations of the Cross which now are available on our campus.

My point is simply this: St. Mark's never ceased being the Church during this awful time. We are a community built on love and mutual respect and concern for one another. This is our witness to the world, and from what I have seen it is a very good witness.

No, Covid is not gone. It may flare up again. But, I am prayerful that as vaccinations and treatments progress we will move through this to higher ground—and all the while singing together the praises of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**God's peace,  
Father Scott**





**St. Mark's lost the old oak tree on the western corner of our lot during the May 4th storm. Not only that, but the Chapman Rose Bush sculpture was demolished. Fortunately, there was no damage to the parish hall. A special thank you to Charlie Harbaugh and John Park who came early that morning to clear debris from the parking lot.**

**Yard/Estate Sale**— St. Mark's will have a fund-raising yard/estate sale on June 11(4-8p.m.) and June12 (7a.m. to Noon). Jan Byrne is the coordinator of the event and it will be held at 129 E. Main Street, the former home of Larry Vinson.

All items are being accepted for donations There will be no extra help for unloading other than a hand truck. If you would like to donate items or if you would like to help with the sale, please contact Jan at 312-4003.

As with all fund raisers for the Church, a portion of what we collect will go to Outreach.

**Church**  
**YARD**  
**SALE**



**Lemonade in the Shade:** In July-September we will return to 'Lemonade in the Shade' after the 11 a.m. service. A sign up list is on the table underneath the baptismal window. The lemonade will be pre-made and in the Ray Hall Kitchen refrigerator. All you will need to do is to leave after you receive communion and go next door to place the lemonade on the cart and wheel it over. Afterwards, you take everything back to the kitchen. In the past, some people have also provided cookies, but that is not a requirement.

**Coffee Hour:** We will soon return to having some fellowship time in Ray Hall after the 8:30 service. There will be a sign up next week for those wishing to bring something for coffee hour.

**Peanut Butter and Jelly:** AICC provides hundreds of local families with food all year long. With school children home for the summer the need is even greater. The vestry is sponsoring a Peanut Butter and Jelly drive through the month of June. Please bring jars you wish to donate to Ray Hall any morning (Monday-Friday) or on Sunday when you come to church. Of course, other food items are welcome as well but our emphasis is on PB and J.

**PARISH PICNIC:** We'll supply the burgers and dogs, you bring the rest. Mark your calendar to come to Jim Plexico and Jan Byrne's farm Sunday June 27 at 5:30 p.m. Bring a picnic-type dish to share and your own beverages. Lawn chairs are a must. This is the first fellowship activity together in 16 months! Come and enjoy!

## Come Walk our New Stations

The Stations of the Cross are permanently displayed around the Church thanks to a private gift and the labor of Gordon and Debbie Faulk. Thank you Jim and Beverly Byard for your help and encouragement along the way.

Also, thank you to James Byard for his work in making our stations accessible through a phone application QR code. Hard copies of the liturgy, including all 14 stations, can be found in a weather shielded plastic box near the first station (next to the front door of the church).

Walking the "Way of the Cross" is a traditional discipline appropriate at anytime, but especially during Lent. We encourage all who can to walk the stations and to tell their friends and family about them as

**Ushers:** If you would like to serve as an usher at St. Mark's please email Michele Burdell at [mburdell@stmarksal.org](mailto:mburdell@stmarksal.org)



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### Newsletter Submission Info

Just a reminder: all articles for the Winged Lion are due no later than the 20th of each month. Please see to it that your news and information are submitted to the editor, Becky Obert, by that date. Becky has a mail box in the office hallway or you can email her at [beckyobert@mac.com](mailto:beckyobert@mac.com).

## Endless thanks Department:

Our thanks to members of the committee in charge of selling the Vinson property which was left to the church when Larry died. Members include Jan Byrne, David Gatch, Jim Searcy, John Dunbar and Roscoe Williams.

Thank you Les Amidon for your continued good work broadcasting St. Mark's worship.

Thank you John Park and Charlie Harbaugh for the hundred little jobs you do around the church.

Thank you to Karen Mitchell, John and Lyn Dunbar, Jackie Williams and all those who volunteer to regularly help take care of our grounds.

Thank you to Gail and Sam Robertson for rehanging our newly re-framed Bishops' Gallery.

Thank you Jan Byrne for envisioning and heading up the upcoming Estate/Yard Sale. Thank you also to all those who have been helping with this worthy fundraiser.

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