



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

*Condolence to the family of
Sister Patricia Christine Briggs*

Celebration of Life

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Visitation: 10:00 am | Funeral: 11:00 am

Stewart Funeral Home

4001 Benning Road, N.E. | Washington, DC 20019

Mary Taylor (LáAngel’s Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Joyce Gibson, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Laura Dotson

Autumn Lake Healthcare
9001 Cherry Lane
Laurel, MD 20707
301.498.8558

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarksfmd@gmail.com



“We come together at St. Mark’s to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world.”

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

401.379.0600 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | reveugene@comcast.net

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader

Prelude **Rev. Dr. Fernando Allen**

Lighting of the Candles **Usher**

Gathering Song.....**St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship.....**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

Leader: For welcoming us here today.

People: **We bless you, Lord.**

Leader: For your grace and merciful generosity.

People: **We bless you Lord.**

Leader: For drawing us in, for the promise of new life and hope.

People: **We bless you, Lord.**

All: **We are here to offer you our worship and praise. Let all God's people praise your holy name.**

Sunday September 26th (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Homecoming** — **"God of the Past, God of the Present, and God of the Future"**. **Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord** will be our morning preacher. We are asking for a special Homecoming offering to be given by each member. A meal will be provided for all members, if you are joining us virtually, please indicate if you would like a meal through chat, you will be responsible for picking up the meal.

Monday, September 27th (7:00 p.m.) — **Special Church Conference**. A presentation entitled: **"Sacred Grounds"** — This is an interfaith endeavor relative to planting native plants and flowers at the church and homes. Zoom information will be forthcoming.

Monday, October 11th (6:00 p.m.) — **Annual Church Conference** (This will be virtual)

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
2. You can mail it to the church ([601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707](mailto:601EighthStreet@StMarksMD.org))
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarks1md>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn't actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me."

The Gloria Patri – "Glory Be to the Father" (Hymnal, #71)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Hymn of Preparation..... St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

"First and Last"

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection

Announcements

Benediction

Announcements

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Millicent Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



"A FRESH START (NOW)" —We desire to have many members as possible active in all the various areas of Ministry.

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room.

Call in #267.807.9611; Access code 331960

Thursday, September 23rd (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

Blessed Assurance

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight,
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *(Refrain)*

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. *(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)*

We confess that we come to you as imperfect people. We are sinners who need redeeming: we are lost without your love. Forgive us for insisting on our own way. Forgive us for holding you and others at arm's length. Forgive us for not welcoming others as we should. Relying on Jesus Christ as our advocate, we lean into your promised victory over evil, and pray for reconciliation with you. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

The Invocation.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield
Song of Meditation..... St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination *(Unison)*

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace so that the good

news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(*Proverbs 31:19–31, Common English Bible*)

- ¹⁹ She puts her hands to the spindle;
her palms grasp the whorl.
²⁰ She reaches out to the needy;
she stretches out her hands to the poor.
²¹ She doesn't fear for her household when it snows,
because they are all dressed in warm clothes.
²² She makes bedspreads for herself;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.
²³ Her husband is known in the city gates
when he sits with the elders of the land.
²⁴ She makes garments and sells them;
she supplies sashes to traders.
²⁵ Strength and honor are her clothing;
she is confident about the future.
²⁶ Her mouth is full of wisdom;
kindly teaching is on her tongue.
²⁷ She is vigilant over the activities of her household;
she doesn't eat the food of laziness.
²⁸ Her children bless her;
her husband praises her:
²⁹ "Many women act competently,
but you surpass them all!"
³⁰ Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
³¹ Let her share in the results of her work;
let her deeds praise her in the city gates.

Scripture Reading #2**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(*James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a, Common English Bible*)

Wisdom from above

- ¹³ Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom.
¹⁴ However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth.
¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. ¹⁶ Wherever there is

jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. ¹⁷ What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. ¹⁸ Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

Conflict with people and God

⁴ What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? ² You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. ³ You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings.

⁷ Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. ⁸ Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

Blessing of the Offering**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(*Mark 9:30–37, Common English Bible*)

Jesus predicts his death

³⁰ From there Jesus and his followers went through Galilee, but he didn't want anyone to know it. ³¹ This was because he was teaching his disciples, "The Human One will be delivered into human hands. They will kill him. Three days after he is killed he will rise up." ³² But they didn't understand this kind of talk, and they were afraid to ask him.

³³ They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about during the journey?"

³⁴ They didn't respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all." ³⁶ Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said,
³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name