

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)*

***Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling***

*Baltimore/Washington Conference*

***Rev. Sarah Schlieckert***

*District Superintendent  
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

## Pastor Appreciation Month

*'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

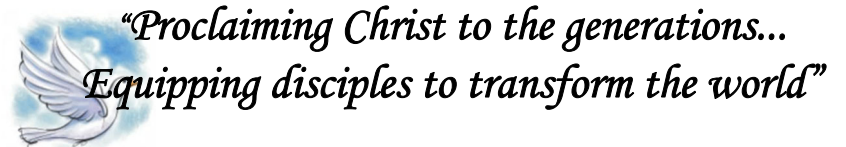
*~Matthew 25:21*

Thank you, Pastor Matthews, for being a faithful servant. Your faithfulness was just what St. Mark's needed. Your commitment to bring out the best in each of us has been unparalleled. With grace, you adapted during the pandemic to ensure we stayed connected. Your timely messages are always applicable, cause us to reflect, and challenge us to be better Christians. Your love for the congregation is evident – prayers, calls to check-in, cards of appreciation, and even text messages!

Thank you seems so insufficient to express our gratitude! The love, care, commitment, and dedication you've shown to our congregation has been amazing. We are grateful to God for your leadership and that we were selected to experience the fruits of your labor.

*Many blessings to you!*

*St. Mark's UMC*



**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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

### *Celebration of Life* *Samuel C. Smith*

*Monday, October 18, 2021*

*Viewing — 10:00 a.m.—Noon*

*Funeral — Noon*

*Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church  
7410 Old Muirkirk Rd, Beltsville, MD*

Floyd Hughes Sr., 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 Ln.  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764

**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 and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)

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

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, October 17, 2021*

*Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost*



 *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*   
*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

*131<sup>st</sup> Church Anniversary*

*“God of the Past, God of the Present,  
and God of the Future”*

*Order of Service*

*Sister Venita Stratford, Worship Leader*

**Prelude ..... Brother Fernando G. Allen, Sr.**

**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 Venita Stratford**

**Leader:** Gracious God we gather to observe St. Mark's United Methodist Church's Anniversary

**People:** **Be with us O Lord, as we celebrate 131 years of continuous ministry.**

**Leader:** For such a time as this you have called us to be our very best.

**People:** **We continue to build upon the foundation of this household of faith.**

**Leader:** May we be worthy of the ministry of our past generations.

**People:** **To God be the glory.**

**All:** **We praise and thank you for your great faithfulness to us.**

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

### *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **[Refrain]**

## *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.

**Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — Men's Bible Study.

**Session 3: Survey of the Books of Poetry and Wisdom.**

Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>

Meeting ID: 848 7608 7048

Passcode: 803201

**Phone Option** — One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,84876087048#,,, \*803201# US (Washington DC)

**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, October 21<sup>st</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **Laity Sunday.** Our Laity will be conducting the service. Our morning speaker with **Min. Nena Hughes.**

**Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** (following service) — **Meeting of all ushers**

**Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **Youth, Young Adults, Sweatshirts and Jersey Sunday.** Service will be led by the youth. Our morning messenger will be **Min. Brian Bailey,** Kettering Baptist Church Legacy Center. Also, members of the Laurel City Police Department will be worshipping with us.

cabinetry was installed. Both bathrooms were painted, ceramic floors and new sinks and toilets were installed. The bathroom entrance doors were also made to be handicap accessible.

To transition into returning to in-person worship, outdoor services were held on the church parking lot on Sundays June 6, 2021, and July 4, 2021, with pandemic safety protocols in place. The other Sundays in June and July were held virtually on ZOOM. On Sunday August 1, 2021, our Worship Service was held in the Sanctuary with pandemic safety protocols in place. This was the first time a worship service was held in the sanctuary since in 17 months. Members may either attend the Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary or view the service virtually through ZOOM.

Since our beginning in 1890, St. Mark's has been led by 29 Pastors and 7 Assistant Pastors. We were also blessed to have Rev. John Evans and Rev. Louis Conway serve as "Pastors Emeritus" upon their retirements.

We pray God's divine guidance will allow us to continue Proclaiming Christ to the generations, and Equipping Disciples to transform the world.

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, renew our faith and increase our faith in you. Unite us, O Lord, in common commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, that the world may see our dedication to follow your teachings and to fulfill your will for this church. We thank you for being our God of the Past, God of the Present, and we know that you will be the God of our Future. May your will be done in splendid, perfect fellowship. Continue to guide us in the future, as you have in the past. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

**The Invocation**..... **Sister Venita Stratford**

**Song of Meditation** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**Church History Overview** ..... **Sister Sandra Johnson**

**Presentation** ..... **Sister Venita Stratford**

**Love and Appreciation** ..... **Congregation**

**Selection** ..... **Choir**

### **The Prayer of Illumination** (*Unison*)

O God, may you instill in us the power and graciousness of the words of scripture we hear today. Allow the spirit of our ancestors to speak through the readings and the proclamation. Above all, on this celebrative day, speak to our hearts through your Word today. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Venita Stratford**

(*Jeremiah 29:11–14, Common English Bible*)

<sup>11</sup> I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. <sup>12</sup> When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Sister Venita Stratford**  
(*Hebrews 5:1–10, Common English Bible*)

**Introduction to a deeper teaching**

**5** Every high priest is taken from the people and put in charge of things that relate to God for their sake, in order to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. **2** The high priest is able to deal gently with the ignorant and those who are misled since he himself is prone to weakness. **3** Because of his weakness, he must offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as for the people. **4** No one takes this honor for themselves but takes it only when they are called by God, just like Aaron.

**5** In the same way Christ also didn't promote himself to become high priest. Instead, it was the one who said to him,

*You are my Son.  
Today I have become your Father,*

**6** as he also says in another place,

*You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

**7** During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard because of his godly devotion.

**8** Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. **9** After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. **10** He was appointed by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Selection** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**Blessing of the Offering** ..... **Sister Venita Stratford**  
**Offertory**

**Introduction of Guest Preacher** ..... **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

In 1976, the Laurel Charge was dissolved, and Rev. Douglas Logan was appointed the first pastor of St. Mark's as a station church. On Sunday, December 9, 1979, consecration services were held for the remodeled sanctuary and newly built Fellowship Hall.

Rev. George F. DeFord served from 1982–June 1993. In January of 1993, Rev. DeFord became the first full-time pastor of St. Mark's. In July 1993, Rev. Patricia Pride became our first female pastor.

In July 1994, Rev. Robert E. Walker, Jr. was assigned. Unfortunately, it was necessary to return to having a part-time pastor. In 1997, St. Mark's returned to having a full-time pastor with Rev. Vera Mitchell-Mallett.

In July 2001, Rev. John T. Jennings II was appointed. In 2002, St. Mark's began the "*Ordained to Build*" campaign to construct a new church.

Rev. Robbie Morganfield served from 2008–2014. On October 19, 2008, in honor of the church's 118<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the parsonage was remodeled and named **The Level Place Ministry Center**.

From July 2014–June 2019, Rev. Dr. Sonia L. King served. St. Mark's provided opportunities for our members to grow spiritually through new ministries, Winter Shelter for Women who are homeless and Bible Study. Architectural drawings for a church renovation project were also obtained.

In July 2019, St. Mark's welcomed Rev. Eugene Matthews. St. Mark's again returned to having a part-time pastor.

In March 2020, the Covid 19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic shut down the world. After the Men's Day service on March 8, 2020, all churches, schools, and businesses were closed. Because of God's grace, St. Mark's continued to provide worship services for its members. For two Sundays, March 15 and March 22, worship services were held through telephone Conference Calls. Beginning March 29, 2020, our worship service was held virtually through ZOOM; Jaime Coffen served as the ZOOM facilitator. The ZOOM services allowed the St. Mark's family to stay connected. With the leadership of the Trustees, remodeling projects were completed during the pandemic in the fall of 2020. The Sanctuary was painted, and all lights were changed to LED. All church exterior doors were weather stripped. The Fellowship Hall was painted, and LED lights and engineered floors were installed. The Kitchen was painted, and new

# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

## Church History

(Updated October 2021)

In 1890, the spirit of the Lord led Frank Carter and his wife Sarah (Hebron) Carter to organize the home mission known as **St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church**, as it was first called. The mission, which consisted of 28 parishioners, was organized under the supervision of Rev. McHenry J. Naylor, a circuit rider preacher who was appointed to the all-black Washington Conference and assigned to the Bladensburg Circuit.

The congregation moved into a hall which was moved directly across the street to where St. Mark's is situated now and remodeled. In 1893, Rev. Steward A. Lewis was appointed the first pastor. St. Mark's and Queen's Chapel became the Laurel Charge, sharing the same minister. In 1895, Bacon's Chapel (now known as Mt. Zion) was added to the Laurel Charge.

The cornerstone was laid for the original edifice on November 8, 1908. In 1912, electric lights were installed. On November 13, 1920, the church which accommodated 50 to 75 people was dedicated.

The congregation outgrew the original edifice, and in 1921 the building was sold and moved across the street. In 1921 the cornerstone was laid for a new sanctuary. The new church, which accommodated up to 150 people, was built at a cost of \$10,480, and was consecrated in the fall of 1923.

In 1939, our church became **St. Mark's Methodist Church**, upon the merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church.

Under Rev. Dr. Levi B. Miller's tenure, the offering envelopes were introduced and our first organ was purchased. During Rev. Joseph Haskins' tenure (1953–1959), the Annual Homecoming (4th Sunday in September) became a tradition.

Rev. John Evans was appointed to the Laurel Charge from 1960-1969. In 1968, our church became **St. Mark's United Methodist Church** upon the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren.

Scripture Reading #3 ..... Sister Venita Stratford  
(Mark 7:24–27, Common English Bible)

### An immigrant's daughter is delivered

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. <sup>25</sup> In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

### 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. Sarah Schlieckert  
*District Superintendent  
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

## "Legacy of Hope"

### Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call  
Invitation Selection

### Announcements

### Benediction

## *Rev. Sarah Andrews Schlieckert*

Rev. Sarah Andrews Schlieckert comes from a long family line of clergy in the Baltimore-Washington area. Her brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all served as clergy. Her husband Chris Schlieckert is director of retreat and camping ministries for the Baltimore-Washington Conference and is also director of the West River Center. They have two daughters, Anna, 11 and Mary, 8.



She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School with a Master of Divinity and Gettysburg College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Religion, has served as pastor in several Maryland congregations. As pastor of Pasadena United Methodist Church from July 2020–June 2021 she led the congregation through its ministry during the pandemic, increasing the church's online presence, initiating creative worship elements, and adding new uses of technology beyond worship. She also oversaw a review of endowment policy, helped plan a capital campaign for new windows, and was responsible for the operation of the Pasadena Early Learning Center under COVID restrictions.

From July 2018–June 2020, Rev. Schlieckert was pastor of Calvary United Methodist Church in Waldorf, Maryland. She led the congregation through a transition following the retirement of a pastor after a medium-length tenure, helping to smooth tension around denominational debates and confronting long-simmering issues of decline and financial troubles. She offered multiple short-term study opportunities and used new technologies to reach people. Under her guidance the congregation expanded a partnership with a local non-profit to offer hot meals twice a week at the church and explore new outreach opportunities.

In a 10-month part-time interim position at Melville Chapel United Methodist Church in Elkridge, Maryland, 2017–2018, she led the congregation through an assessment, reflection and visioning following a period of multiple pastoral transitions, including the death of the appointed pastor. She helped establish administrative best practices. As lead pastor of Arden United Methodist Church in

Martinsburg, West Virginia from July 2014–August 2017 she helped the congregation begin its transition from a small church through a ministry program oriented to growth. Under her leadership, the church re-established a children's Sunday School, developed new discipleship opportunities such as Bible studies and a young adult Sunday School class, increased involvement of young families in the church life, and introduced new outreach opportunities to increase congregational involvement in missions.

She is interested in outdoor activities, running, current events, culinary arts, crafts, technology skills, website design, and online social networking.