

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

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*"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*

*443.257.2730 | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)*

*Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus*

*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, October 15, 2023*

*Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost  
133<sup>rd</sup> Church Anniversary*

*Celebrating  
Pastor Eugene W. Matthews*

*“God Is Not Through With Us Yet”*

*“I’m sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will  
stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus”.*

*Philippians 1:6 (CEB)*



*Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

# *Order of Service*

*Ushers:*

*Gemma DeSouza-Ottley and Sharon Thomas*

*Sister Cynthia Augustus, Worship Leader*

**Prelude ..... Rev. Henry Tindal**

**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 Augustus**

**Leader:** Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**People:** **For his steadfast love endures forever: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all his praise?**

**Leader:** Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

**People:** **Remember us, O Lord , when you show your favor to your people.**

**Leader:** Help us when you deliver them, that we may see the prosperity in your chosen ones.

**People:** **Let us rejoice in the gladness that you have brought us through 133 years.**

**All:** **We Are Standing Today on Your Promises!!**

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

***“Standing on the Promises”***

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.

***Refrain:***

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God. ***[Refrain]***
3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
standing on the promises of God. ***[Refrain]***
4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God. ***[Refrain]***

**Prayer for Our Heritage *(In Unison)***

Today we gather, O Lord, to celebrate the gift of your presence for 133 years of continuous ministry in the life of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. We celebrate our African roots. We celebrate our spirituality. We celebrate our different ways of being that we share with the larger church. Above all, we celebrate the High God who has traveled with us all our days. Because of God's goodness and faithfulness to us, we realize that he has not brought us this far to leave us. Moreover, "God Is Not Through With Us Yet". So, on this day, we still have a song to sing, we still have a story to tell, and we still have a God to glorify. Today we have gathered to worship and give thanks and say, "What a Mighty God" we serve. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation** ..... **Sister Cynthia Augustus**

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

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

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

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

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that comes from your mouth, make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, who is our risen Lord. Lord, today of all days we've come to hear about the Resurrection of our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Cynthia Augustus**

(*Psalms 90:1–12, Common English Bible*)

**90** Lord, you have been our help,

generation after generation.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born,

before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world—

from forever in the past

to forever in the future, you are God.

<sup>3</sup> You return people to dust,

saying, “Go back, humans,”

<sup>4</sup> because in your perspective a thousand years

are like yesterday past,

like a short period during the night watch.

<sup>5</sup> You sweep humans away like a dream,

like grass that is renewed in the morning.

<sup>6</sup> True, in the morning it thrives, renewed,

but come evening it withers, all dried up.

<sup>7</sup> Yes, we are wasting away because of your wrath;

we are paralyzed with fear on account of your rage.

<sup>8</sup> You put our sins right in front of you,

set our hidden faults in the light from your face.

<sup>9</sup> Yes, all our days slip away because of your fury;

we finish up our years with a whimper.  
<sup>10</sup> We live at best to be seventy years old,  
 maybe eighty, if we're strong.  
 But their duration brings hard work and trouble  
 because they go by so quickly.  
 And then we fly off.  
<sup>11</sup> Who can comprehend the power of your anger?  
 The honor that is due you corresponds to your wrath.  
<sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days  
 so we can have a wise heart.

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
*(Philippians 1:1–6, Common English Bible)*

**1** From Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.

To all those in Philippi who are God's people in Christ Jesus, along with  
 your supervisors and servants.

**2** May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
 be with you.

**3** I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. **4** I'm thankful  
 for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. **5** I'm  
 glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the  
 gospel from the time you first believed it until now. **6** I'm sure about this:  
 the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete  
 the job by the day of Christ Jesus.

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

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**

**Special Presentation ..... Sister Jaime Coffen**

**Blessing of the Offering ..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**

**Special Offering – Church Anniversary**

**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Sister Cynthia Augustus**  
*(Matthew 22:1–14, Common English Bible)*

**22** Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: <sup>2</sup>”The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!”’ <sup>5</sup> But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. <sup>6</sup> The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

<sup>7</sup>”The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’

<sup>10</sup>”Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. <sup>11</sup> Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’

<sup>14</sup>”Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”

**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.**

**Introduction of Speaker.....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Hymn of Preparation .....St. Mark’s Choir**

**Inspirational Message .....Rev. Terry L. McCain**  
*Hopkins/Mt. Gregory Charge UMC*

**Invitation / Praise and Concerns**

**Altar Call .....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Benediction**

# Rev. Terry L. McCain

**Rev. Terry L. McCain** is a native of Prince George's County, born and raised in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. He is the son of Luke and Thelma McCain, one of seven children. Rev. McCain was educated in the public school system of Prince George's County. He went on to continue his education at Prince George's Community College and Bowie State University, majoring in Sociology. He completed his course of study through the Wesley Theological Seminary.



His call to ministry came in 1990 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley, who was the Pastor at Union United Methodist Church at that time. As a faithful member of Union United Methodist Church, he served as an Usher, Sunday School Teacher, Lay Speaker, United Methodist Men's President and a Mission Disciple as he prepared for going into Ministry.

Terry served as Student Minister at Gethsemane United Methodist Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland. He also served as Mission Disciple at Congress Heights United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. In the year of 2000 Terry was appointed the Pastor of West Liberty United Methodist Church in Marriottsville, Maryland in which he served that congregation for six years. In 2006 he was appointed Pastor to Elderslie-St. Andrews United Methodist Church and in July of 2011 he was blessed to receive the opportunity to serve 2 churches as he was appointed to Govans-Boundary United Methodist Church. On July, 1, 2019 he was blessed to begin his new journey at Hopkins UMC. He is currently serving Hopkins UMC and Mt. Gregory UMC.

He currently is employed with the Prince George's County Public School System where he has worked diligently for over 40 years. He is looking toward his retirement with the School System as he looks forward to devoting all of his time to full time Pastoral Leadership in the Ministry. Terry is a Husband, Father, Son, a Brother, Teacher, Pastor, but most of all a Servant of the Most High God.

His motto comes from *1 Corinthians 15:58*, "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord".



# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

## *Church History*

*(Updated October 2023)*

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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 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 in 17 months. Members could either attend the Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary or view the service virtually through ZOOM. Because of the new OMICRON variant of Covid-19, St. Mark's returned to only virtual ZOOM Sunday Worship Services from December 26, 2021, until February 27, 2022. During these months, worship services were not held in the Sanctuary. On March 6, 2022, Worship Service in the Sanctuary resumed; ZOOM was also an option. At the present time, we are having worship service on YouTube.

In March 2022, Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, who served as St. Mark's Pastor from July 1982–June 1993, became Pastor Emeritus. 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, Rev. Louis Conway, and Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord 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.

# *Announcements*

**Wearing a mask while in the sanctuary is at your discretion.**

<b>Worship Attendance — 10/1/2023</b>	
<b>In-Person</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>YouTube</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

## **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, our youth and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Book Study — Purpose Driven Life.** Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>; Meeting ID: **885 7118 4455**; Passcode: **459563**

**Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.)** — This study is based on the Upper Room reading for Wednesday. **Call in info:** 267.807.9611, **Access Code:** 331960.

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal**

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> (11:00 a.m.) — Annual Church Conference,** Nichols Bethel UMC (1239 Murray Road, Odenton, MD). **Asking all reports to be given to the church office to meet the District deadline of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** All members of the congregation are invited to be present with authorization to have their voice and vote.

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **Laity Sunday. Speaker:**  
**Sister Darlene Washington, Lay Leader,** Franklin United Methodist Church, Churchton, Maryland.

**Attention Women:** **Roundtable Recharge Retreat**, April 25<sup>th</sup>–April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. For information and reservations, please see Nena Hughes. \$100 deposit (by October 22<sup>nd</sup>) will hold your reservation.

**Note from Finance:** First, 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/stmarksmd>)

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



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

**Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List:** If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net).

Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Diane Gaskin Breedy (friend of Gemma), Carol Quick, Rev. Henry Tindal, Janet Carey, Rev. George F. DeFord, Lafayette and Elaine Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Shawn Settles, Floyd Hughes Sr., Chantel Ashley, Phillip Reese, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Francis DeSouza Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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