

A People Called Beloved. . . Becoming the Story We Tell

*A voice came from heaven,
“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”* – Mark 1:11

St. Mark’s commitment to being and building God’s beloved community is evident in our Vision Statement which appears on the front of our worship booklet each week and which appears on our website:

“At St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, we believe that the spirit of God lives in every human being, and that we are called to glorify that which unites us while at the same time celebrating the awesome diversity of God’s creations. All of us at St. Mark’s share a commitment to our faith and to our community, and we welcome visitors regardless of religious background, race, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Everyone is welcome here.”

But at St. Mark’s these are much more than words. . . they are a way of being the People God has called us to be – God’s beloved children. A way of Becoming the Story We Tell as we celebrate the diversity of God’s creation in our congregation and in our community.



*Ushers (Elsa & Lisa) at
Ministry Fair*



Weekly Jubilate & Tea Deum

Through our Conversation Cafés this fall, we heard many of you mention – again and again – the value you place on inclusion, diversity and welcoming at St. Mark’s. When asked why you continue to come to St. Mark’s and where you see God at work in St. Mark’s, here are some of your responses:

- Inclusiveness - everyone part of whole body - no not belonging
 - Different groups - variety - families
 - open minded church, accept everyone
 - Makeup of congregation - like intergenerational aspects of congregation
 - Kids inclusion
 - Unity of the body (St. Mark’s) in worship despite political beliefs
 - The fact that we have progressives and conservatives agreeing to disagree.
 - peace/handshake/eye contact
 - Welcoming spirit/goodwill
- Feeling all are welcome
 - The diversity of the community (ethnic, age, genders, marital status)

- Embrace of diversity
- Different opinions valued
- in the inclusive nature of the service - kids included
- feel welcome at all times
- Interconnections made
- In the care people give to other parishioners
- In the parish's inter-religious involvement
- inclusiveness
- Find support from people - they will help you and you can depend on them
- At the peace - people welcome each other. May be some people's only "hello" of the day
- Good with "the other", folks who may not be a member but they are welcomed "at their own pace" [coffee hour, in the pews]
- Diversity of people attending (inclusive/welcoming)



And because a picture is worth a thousand words, we've made a Word Cloud out of your responses.



Angels (Amaru & London) in the Christmas Pageant

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”— Colossians 3:12

As we live fully into our calling to be God’s Beloved, the Stewardship Team at St. Mark’s invites you to prayerfully consider your annual pledge to the church for 2018, a gift that enables us to continue this work of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience – a gift that moves us closer to becoming the story we tell.

Please watch your mail this week for your Annual Campaign Invitation Letter and Pledge Card and plan to return your Pledge Commitment to St. Mark’s on or before Sunday, January 28th.
