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The St Marker

"Bible Fed and Spirit Led"

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Vision:
 Transform Our Lives
 Revitalize Our Faith

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**We can't help every-
 one, but everyone can
 help someone.**

Ronald Regan

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Pantry Days

OMG what a day what a day! On Thursday May 14, it was a good weather day, and everyone was in good spirits for Pantry Day #7. This time it was quite different than all the others. It was our very first drive thru and it was highly successful.

In addition to the usual fresh produce, canned goods and meat, there was something new added. Compliments of Monica Alvarado, of Bread and Butter Kitchen, Annapolis, Md., and Shaun Fair of Three Brothers Pizza, Odenton Md., there was a large quantity of prepared meals being given out. There was more than enough food for all who came. Eight thousand pounds of food was distributed to 108 families. (417 individuals)

Pastor Watson led the group in prayer prior to distribution. It was great to see Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32 lending a helping hand, and being very supportive of this community event. It was also nice to feel safe and secure as we had our very own security guard, Willie Epps, on duty.

This day was more than just about food. At the end of the line was John Hawkins passing out literature on St. Mark, 2020 Census, AACO Public Library's Educating At Home Cheat Sheet, and reminding everyone to vote. All very good and useful information.

Since COVID-19 had us sheltering in and caused cancellation of Sunday service and other St. Mark events. Pantry Day #7 was like a reunion. Though it was work, just seeing familiar faces and having that contact made it fun.

On Thursday May 28, it was Pantry #8. It was a very wet day. At one time it poured. However as the saying goes "the show must go on!" Volunteers braved the rain to accommodate all who ventured out. Added to the usual food items were dairy products such as milk, eggs, and yogurt. Once again 8000 thousand pounds of food was distributed to 100 families (374 individuals).

On Thursday June 11, Pantry #9 took place. It was another rainy day. Volunteers were wet from head to toe. There was a little lightening and thunder but every one stuck it out to the end, which by the way was when the sun came out. The usual food items were distributed. Once again Monica Alvarado delivered prepared meals from restaurants throughout AACO such as the Chart House, Soul, Mini Mart & Deli, Leeward Market and Caliente Grill. The organization, Feed AACO also provided prepared meals. A total of 90 families (292 individuals) were recipients of 12,000 pounds of food.

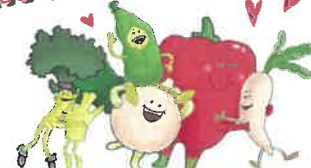
Due to COVID -19 it was required that everyone, recipients as well as volunteers, wear masks and gloves. At the end of day there was a crew who sanitized all tables used before returning them to their proper place in the fellowship hall.

Thanks to Ramona Burnett who works very hard to organize all of our pantry days. And where would we be without our volunteers. They work together like a well-oiled machine. Each as a functional part which cannot work without the other. They show up get their instructions, take their place, and as Nike says, "Just do it." This is great teamwork. But don't take my word for it. Next time (if you haven't done so before) just show up.



**Drive-thru Pantry
 Tuesday July 14, 2020
 10am -12pm**

We'd Love to see you!



A View of Pantry Days #7, 8 & 9.



#ReachTeachInspire



"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." Psalm 3:28

As we are all aware, COVID-19 caused schools to close resulting in our children turning to virtual learning. Parents, grand parents, aunts, uncles and various other relatives and/or friends became teachers. It was not an easy task. Even teachers became a little overwhelmed, as they too are parents. Not only did they have to teach their students on line but they had to make themselves available to help their own children as well.

Pictured left is Min. Michael R. Simms, Sr., and his granddaughter Madison. Min. Simms stated, "These were some of the most rewarding days I've spent with my 6yr. old (1st grade) granddaughter. I don't know how the school day goes in school but at home it made for a full day. Madison is a great student and we were so fortunate to have this quality time with each other. Our time together was filled with hard work, laughter, prayer and lots and lots of love. I've always involved myself with my children and older grands academic development. Applause to the professional educators."

by H.E. Brown

COVID - 19.....How We Persevered

During this stressful time of COVID-19, our St. Mark family has stepped up to the plate and persevered in more ways than one. We've been able to maintain contact in a multitude of ways. Our Website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, E-blast, Pushpay, St Marker Newsletter, Teleconference, and even our Drive-thru pantry, the LOHFB and SHARE, is a way for us to stay tuned-in, stay connected and serve the community.

Minister Michael R. Simms, Sr. reports that TeleWorship (as he prefers to call it) has been a blessing in disguise. Citing Genesis 50:20, while the pandemic has been seen by many as all bad, yet God has made much of this situation good. This service was birthed by God to Minister Simms as a way to make virtual worship more inclusive. Our call targeted those non or less technical and without internet access. On March 29, our 1st TeleWorship began with 35 attendees and has since grown in excess of 110. Service is 1 hour with spontaneous songs of praise and soloists. Members have led in prayer and read scriptures. Our 1st Communion was June 7. Our worship has reached those who have not been able to be in service due to health and other varying reasons. In addition to local calls we've received calls from Delaware, California and Atlanta. Thank you so much for your support and prayers, to God be the Glory.

Prayer warrior Curtis Warren stated that "God's pathway of prayer is open to all and includes each of our personal paths which he created in us. Our prayer movement is a way to God's pathway. COVID-19 was a wake up call that gave us a new challenge. One we never had before. The Prayer Conference Call began with 3-4 ladies and has since grown to nine. I'm excited about the prayer line and looking forward to new participants. Especially men. I extend an invitation to all men to come join us."

Renee Loudermill, Church Council Chair, stated, "The Council held its first teleconference meeting in May. It was the first opportunity for the council members to reconnect. Future plans are to use the Zoom format when we meet in July. The church may be closed but our hearts and minds remain open as we plan and look forward to the future"

Church School Superintendent, Otis Duffie advised that, "Teleconference Church School has and continues to be a blessing for all. Our first class was held April 5th with 20 individuals on call. The class has seen tremendous growth since it started. The average attendance is 32 individuals. The teleconference has allowed us to study God's word and give him all the glory during this stressful and troubling time. We invite all to join us in the studying of God's word.

John Hawkins, Tuesday Night Bible Study (TNBS) teacher/facilitator, stated, "Doing bible study via teleconference is something we considered during the summer of 2019. COVID-19 caused us to move ahead and what a blessing it has been. We've had between 19 and 26 callers, and some numbers have multiple listener/participants. As participants share their experience with others, we even have callers from out-of-state. I cite Ephesians 4:12-13, "The purpose of teaching/bible study is, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." The focus of the TNBS is to help members better understand God's Word by studying the Word in depth. Discussions and questions are encouraged, and the scripture is the primary source for answers and clarification.

by Hillary E. Brown

Food Truck Fridays

In keeping up with creative ways to provide a service to the community during COVID-19, St Mark now has a Food Truck Ministry. June 5 and 26 featured Chief Emile of 2 Bold Chefs providing Mediterranean Cuisine. June 19 featured Wa Gwaan providing Jamaican Cuisine.





Drive-thru of A Different Kind - June 6



It was a semi-hot morning with a semi-cool breeze blowing through every now and then. It was a drive-thru of a different kind. There was no produce but there was food. Spiritual food that is. For the soul and mind. Any one who came through the line was given (upon request), the Daily Bread booklet, the Adult Bible Studies book for Sunday school, and Communion Element (s) consisting of juice and wafer. Many volunteers were on hand to direct traffic and hand out the items. *by Hillary E. Brown*



Juneteenth Prayer Vigil - June 19



St. Mark Community Outreach Ministry hosted a prayer vigil to commemorate the oldest known celebration honoring the end of slavery in the USA. On June 19, 1865, Texas was the last state to receive word. The evening consisted of prayers to include a special Juneteenth prayer by Debbie Kimble and the origin of Juneteenth given by Acolytes Mattie Deese and Riley Dove.

The evening culminated with prayer and melodious voices of those gathered singing "This Little Light of Mine." A voter's registration table was also available for the evening. Let's not forget our ancestors bravery, sacrifices, blood, sweat, and tears endured.

by A.. Thompson

Congratulations St Mark Grads



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