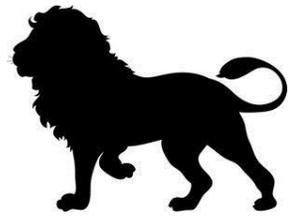


The Messenger



Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2018

From the Pastor

Exec meeting. Council meeting. Various committee meetings. Visit parishioners. Write sermon. Finish Installation bulletin. Start next week's sermon. Review bulletin. Return emails. Be installed. Contact new visitors. Write *Messenger* article. Check one box, then add two more. The cycle continues.

I do my best to keep a running to-do list. I maintain a notebook that has notes from various meetings, observations and ideas, and above all, my to-do lists. But as quickly as I complete one task, two more take its place. As the list grows and evolves so does the need to prioritize and re-assess, weighing what is most important or most urgent. So I create a new list, reorganizing, again and again, prioritizing the various tasks. I know that *I* make the list, but somehow the list seems to have power over me.

I think the revolving to-do list is indicative of life, constantly adding and completing tasks. Work project due. Kid's practice. Bill due. Doctor's appointment. Write paper. One task after the other, we become beholden to our endless to-dos, organizing and prioritizing our lists, day after day, week after week. We all have lists, whether we write them down or not. And before we know it, we're stuck in a rut or routine, a metaphorical plateau. We move from task to task, checking items off one at a time.

In January, my family was in town for the installation service. One afternoon I was talking with my dad, reflecting on the first few months of ministry at St. Mark's. I shared with him the many conversations, visitations, projects, and meetings that have taken place already. As I shared my experiences, I began to realize that the most meaningful, spiritual, and faithful ministry moments have not been on my to-do list. They happen during the in-between moments of my various tasks. They happen outside of my self-assessed priorities. No matter how organized I try to be, and despite my efforts to plan and anticipate, the most meaningful moments of ministry happen in the unexpected, unprompted, and unplanned

moments of my day.

Certainly it is no surprise to me that God seems most active and most present when I least expect or anticipate it. After all, we have a rich Biblical history of God being present in the most unexpected times and places. Maybe I need to start adding blank lines to my to-do lists as intentional reminders to be open to God's unique timing.

If we're not careful and attentive, then our church calendar and lectionary cycle can lure us into a rut and routine of "checklist" Sundays. Reformation—Check. All Saints'—Check. Advent—Check. Christmas Eve—Check. Ash Wednesday—Check. Easter—Check. Too often our tendency is to count down from one major Christian holiday to the next—from one festival Sunday to the next. And although there is much to be gained spiritually from these major Sundays, God is at work during the in-between time too. For instance, each Sunday of Epiphany (between Christmas and Lent) is filled with a new revelation of Jesus in the world. Each week is an opportunity to reflect on the manifestation of Jesus in our lives in a new way. During Lent we not only count-down to Easter, but we spend several weeks intentionally wrestling with our sins, our mortality, and our need for a savior.

This year I invite you to (re)invest in the in-between moments. I intend to start with Lent. Between the tasks of Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, I invite you to be intentionally present and open to God's work during the in-between time. Be alert and receptive to the Spirit's work in the unexpected, unprompted, and unplanned moments. I invite you to make the in-between time a priority this Lenten season.



Lent 2018 Worship Opportunities:

February 13: Shrove Tuesday Breakfast

February 14: Ash Wednesday Service (12:00 pm and 7:00 pm)

February 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21—Midweek dinner (5:00-6:15 pm) and worship (6:30 pm)

March 29: Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm)

March 30—Good Friday (7:00 pm)

March 31—Easter Vigil (7:00 pm)

April 1—Easter Sunday (9:30 am)

—Pastor Daniel Locke

From the Council President

Dear Members of St. Mark's,

Your Council met on January 22 and I am writing to notify you of the significant actions taken at that meeting.

1. Revised Policies and Procedures were adopted. A copy of the new policies and procedures is permanently placed in Hart Hall for your review. If you want a copy emailed to you, please email me or Council Secretary, Elizabeth Jenkins.
2. The St. Mark's Foundation has awarded \$10,518 to the Church for deferred maintenance costs. Some members have suggested that this money be used for remodeling the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall. However, no decision has been made. If you have other ideas on maintenance projects which should be considered, please contact me or any other member of Council to voice your ideas.
3. On a quarterly basis, the Council will be available in the Library for at least 15 minutes after Sunday service for you to drop in and say "hello," make suggestions, discuss ideas, or express your concerns. Our first meeting was on January 28, and we will do this again on April 29, July 29, and October 28 this year. However, you may contact me or any other member of Council at any time to express your concerns or to make suggestions.
4. I have appointed a Committee to examine information storage, retrieval, and archiving at St. Mark's. It will be headed by John Trainer. Anyone in the congregation who is interested and wishes to serve should see John as soon as possible.
5. We will have a Healthy Congregation retreat as a follow-up to our recent call process. This retreat is recommended by the Synod for congregations

which have recently called a pastor. It has tentatively been scheduled for the evening of Friday, April 27, and the day on Saturday, April 28. This is being scheduled with Pastor Don Reiter, who was an interim pastor here more than 10 years ago.

6. Hopefully, within the next two weeks, we will have a schedule for cottage meetings and sign-up sheets. Check *The Lion's Roar* for an announcement about when the sign-up sheets will be available.
7. Our next Council meeting is Monday, February 26 at 6:30 pm and any member of the Congregation is welcome to attend.

We have had a great start for the new year and our future is bright! Thanks be to God!

—Ray Booth, Council President

(904) 673-0048 cell

RayBooth55@gmail.com

Women of the ELCA



February Circle Meetings:

Priscilla Circle: Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 pm in the library

Deborah Circle: Tuesday, February 13 at 9:30 am in Hart Hall

All women are invited to participate in circle meetings and special events. Contact Rachel Mumford at (904) 730-3880, or Joyce Wertz for more information.

St. Mark's Ark Spring Program

Dear Sir or Madam:

Saint Mark's Ark Preschool is holding its Annual Spring Program/Dinner and Auction Fund Raiser on May 4, 2018. The purpose of this dinner is to celebrate our years of service to the community. We would like to raise funds for our Scholarship Program, to purchase curriculum enhancements, and to purchase additional playground equipment.

We have asked several people to solicit for Saint Mark's Ark Child Development Center (Federal Tax I.D. # 596018404, Florida Tax Exempt #85-8012646353C-9). We thank you for your time and if you should provide one, for your generous donation.

Sincerely,

Patrice Roux-Neal, Director
Cathy Kirby, Asst. Director

Newsletter Position

I have had the pleasure of doing layout, editing, calendar updates, and emailing for St. Mark's two newsletters since 2015. Sending out the *E-Roar* each week has given me a reason to pause, and has often kindly pointed me towards some much-needed devotionals. My inbox, too, is never empty.



© Can Stock Photo

I will continue to assemble *The Lion's Roar* and *The Messenger* through my graduation in April. I expect that I will also have time in May, June, and July (maybe even August). But by August, I would like to have someone trained and prepared to take over the newsletters. I have been accepted into a Creative Writing MFA program! I'm waiting for responses from some other programs, but regardless, I will be out of state and not dependable enough from a long distance.

So, if you know of someone who is proficient in Microsoft Word (or Publisher) or if you are that person, please contact me (stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com).

—Gina Olson

St. Mark's Foundation Grants 2017

On behalf of the St. Mark's Foundation and the St. Mark's congregation, listed here are the awarded grants for 2017. Our congregation is blessed to be able to do God's work.

June 2017:

| | |
|--|------------|
| St. Mark's | |
| Palm Beach Atlantic University concert | \$170.00 |
| St. Mark's—Bach Vespers | \$200.00 |
| Volunteers in Medicine-donation | \$500.00 |
| Seamark Ranch—Bible Curriculum | \$2,000.00 |
| San Marco Chamber Music Society—donation | \$300.00 |

December 2017:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| St. Mark's—Birthday for Christ | \$500.00 |
| Newberry College | |
| St. Mark's Koch Scholarship | \$500.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Lutheran Social Services | |
| Nourishment Network | \$2,000.00 |
| St. Mark's—Youth Program | \$5,000.00 |
| St. Mark's—Bach Vespers | \$1,300.00 |
| St. Mark's—Facilities Upgrade | \$10,518.00 |

The St. Mark's Foundation meets in the months of June and December to evaluate grant proposals. The total grant budget is based on the previous year's corpus earnings and any carryover funds.

Submitted on behalf of the St. Mark's Foundation board. Cathy Stupski, Steve Hicks, Eddie Jackson, Larry Wertz, and John Mumford—Chairman

Class on Lutheran Liturgy

Following Dale Gatz's adult Sunday School class, we will have a four week course review on "Our Lutheran Liturgy." This will start on Sunday, February 18 around 10:45 am. The outline will be as follows:

- 2/18 Origin and history of the Lutheran Liturgy
- 2/25 Biblical basis of each liturgical part
- 3/4 Lutheran composers from Bach to Haugen
- 3/11 Our current hymnal and its liturgy

Tony Cruz will add additional insights and information along the way. You do not need to attend every session as they will be fairly independent of each other, so come when you can! I look forward to seeing you there.

—Jim Dennis

Lenten Soup & Salad Suppers

Fellowship will organize Lenten Soup and Salad suppers before Wednesday evening Lenten services. We will offer supper on February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21.

We are looking for 5 volunteers to lead a team of volunteers they recruit to plan, shop, prepare, and serve dinner. Fellowship will assist with clean up and the church will cover the cost of supplies. We need receipts for documentation. Fellowship can assist with shopping if needed. Dinner is served from 5:00-6:15 pm. Last year we averaged about 25 people per week. Leftovers can be shared with volunteers or with the Ark staff. Contact Leslie Allen at 904-755-6013 (text or voice) if you are willing to volunteer.

What are you giving up for Lent?

In the Christian calendar, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes during Holy Week. Lent is a time to reflect on our Baptism and the death and resurrection of Jesus; a season of renewal to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter¹. As a contemplative and reflective time, Lent is solemn in character, rather than joyful or celebratory. Throughout Lent you'll notice that the processional cross is veiled, and that the Gloria in Excelsis and Alleluias are omitted from our worship liturgies.

During Lent, it is common for Christians to “give something up,” as a form of fasting to commemorate Christ’s sacrifice for us. For many years, I followed this practice; usually giving up “sweets” or “desserts” (never coffee!). Over time, I often found myself engaging in interesting internal “theological” debates, such as “Is a slice of coffeecake a “sweet”—if it’s only eaten for breakfast?”

This left me seeking something more edifying. In recent years, I’ve replaced this tradition of “subtracting something” with “adding something” as a portion of my Lenten spiritual discipline—a tradition I’d encourage you to consider. It’s now my practice to select a Christian book that’s been recommended to enhance my faith walk; reading perhaps 20-30 pages daily to complete the book prior to Easter. The books I’ve profited from include:

- *Mere Christianity*—C. S. Lewis
- *The Case for Christ*—Lee Strobel
- *A Praying Life*—Paul Miller

All are readily available either in print or electronic Kindle versions from Amazon, or from iBooks. This Lent, I’m going to be reading *Cross Vision: How the Crucifixion of Jesus Makes Sense of Old Testament Violence* by Gregory Boyd; a recent Augsburg-Fortress publication.

You might also consider using daily Lenten devotions. There is a wide selection available. Ones that I really enjoy are published by Lutheran Indian Ministries, an organization that “proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Native American peoples, disciplines Native leaders to share the Gospel with their brothers and sisters, and addresses social sufferings in a way that values Native cultures.” The 2018 devotions are available online at <https://www.lutheranindianministries.org/devotions/>.

One last suggestion: Should you decide to mark your Lenten pilgrimage by “adding,” I strongly encourage you to commit to attending worship services on all three days of the Triduum (“the three days” of Holy Week—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter on Saturday). I can’t think of better preparation for our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter, when our alleluias return.

—Bill Ahrens

1. Pfatteicher, P, & Messerli, C. (1979). *Manual on the liturgy: Lutheran book of worship*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

New Campus Minister

Jacksonville Campus Ministries, supported by an ecumenical group of area churches—including St. Mark's, has been serving area college students for over 30 years. The JCM Board of Directors has recently called Sarah Locke to be the new Campus Minister. They ask for your prayerful support as she begins building relationships on campus and in the community. If you, or someone you know would like to be a part of this valuable ministry to young adults, please talk to Sarah (slocke15@gmail.com). Her enthusiasm and energy are contagious!

—Rachel Mumford, *JCM Board of Directors*

Prayer Shawl Ministry



A few years ago, we had an active prayer shawl ministry at St. Mark’s. We knitted or crocheted many prayer shawls to be given to those in need of comfort. You may remember when a tall ladder was placed over some of the pews one Sunday and the shawls were hung on it to be blessed before being given. The recipients of the shawls treasured them very much. We have a few left, but not many. This is a project you can do at home in your spare time, but it is also a good group project.

If you are interested in starting this ministry again, please call me at 880-0759 or email me at sashby8525@aol.com.

—Sue Ashby

2017 Year-End Financial Report

St. Mark's ended 2017 with a net income of \$31,192, increasing the church's operating reserve to \$89,521. Total income exceeded the budget by \$7,005 due to favorable variances of \$4,114; \$1,301; and \$1,145 in total offering, building usage fees, and interest income respectively.

A lower operating expense was the biggest factor producing the year's favorable outcome. Most expense categories were below budget during the year. The largest variance, \$26,614 below budget, occurred in pastoral expense due to operating for most of the year without a full-time pastor. During the year, expenses included contributions of \$14,354 to the Synod and \$2,700 to other church ministries.

St. Mark's enters 2018 in a strong financial position with dedicated reserves of \$156 thousand in addition to the operating reserve cited above.

—Larry Wertz, 2017 Treasurer

Large Print Available

Large print editions of the bulletin (including most of the hymns and service music) are available. Please see an usher. Please know that we re-use the plastic binding combs. If you take your bulletin home, the comb separates easily and can be left in the recycling basket.

Also, if you are interested in large print editions of *The Lion's Roar*, contact Gina Olson at stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com. If anyone is interested, she could start making large print editions.

Plan to Donate Blood

Stop by the OneBlood bus on February 11. Give blood if you are able.



Worship Assistant Schedule for February 2018

| Date | Assisting Minister | Lector | Altar Guild |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday, February 3 | Loree Mueller | | Marieanne Prokop & Ginger Hudson |
| Sunday, February 4 <i>5th Sunday After Epiphany</i> | Ron Eckels | Alonzo Batson | Bonnye Bell & Susan Jackson |
| Sunday, February 11 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> | Steve Hicks | Gina Olson | Bonnye Bell & Susan Jackson |
| Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday | | | |
| Saturday, February 17 | Loree Mueller | | Marieanne Prokop & Ginger Hudson |
| Sunday, February 18 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> | Ellen Olson | Al Voss | Marylou Weidenmier & Jeanette Snyder |
| Sunday, February 25 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> | Gary Pudimat | Janet Gray | Marylou Weidenmier & Jeanette Snyder |

| Date | Fellowship Hosts | Altar Flowers | Order of St. John |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday, February 3 | | | |
| Sunday, February 4 <i>5th Sunday After Epiphany</i> | The Jorn Family | Patrice Roux-Neal | Grace Maszy |
| Sunday, February 11 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> | Jenny Hicks & Mary Cusick | Nicki Hassell | Becca Jorn |
| Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday | | | |
| Saturday, February 17 | | | |
| Sunday, February 18 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> | | | Miora Rambeloarisoa |
| Sunday, February 25 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> | | | Ian Heneghan |

Usher for February: Mary Cusick

February 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | 1 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 2 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave | 3 8:00 am Men in Mission 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave |
| 4 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Kindergarten through 3 rd Grade Sunday School @ Classroom next to "Nursery" | 5 | 6 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ HH 7:30 pm Community Band @ Fellowship Hall | 7 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 8 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle @ Library | 9 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Scholastic Jacksonville Chess Tournament @ Fellowship Hall & San Marco Room | 10 7:30 am Scholastic Jacksonville Chess Tournament @ Fellowship Hall & San Marco Room |
| 11 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave OneBlood Blood Drive 10:30 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Kindergarten through 3 rd Grade Sunday School @ Classroom | 12 | 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast 9:30 am Deborah Circle @ Hart Hall 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Nourish Meeting @ Library 7:30 pm Community Band Rehearsal @ Fellowship Hall | 14 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ Nave 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 15 Deadline for March Messenger 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 16 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave | 17 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave |
| 18 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Kindergarten through 3 rd Grade Sunday School @ Classroom | 19 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting @ Conference Room | 20 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:30 pm Community Band @ Fellowship Hall | 21 12:00 pm Staff & Committee Reports Due 5:00 pm Mid-Week Dinner @ Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 6:30 pm Worship @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 22 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting @ Library | 23 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave | 24 5:00 pm Jacksonville Jaguars Booster Club: Bingo @ Fellowship Hall |
| 25 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Children's Sunday School @ Classroom 5:30 pm Youth Group @ Hart Hall | 26 6:30 pm Council Meeting @ Library | 27 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:30 pm Community Band Rehearsal @ Fellowship Hall | 28 5:00 pm Mid-Week Dinner @ Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 6:30 pm Worship @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | | | |

Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Mission

We invite all people to our church home to celebrate God's many gifts. Nourished by Christ Jesus and led by the Holy Spirit, we send enthusiastic servants to proclaim the hope and joy of life in Christ.



Our Vision

We strive to celebrate the rich diversity of God's people, welcoming all to be nourished in their faith journeys. We live to serve others and fulfill our relationship with Christ in service to community.

Ministry Teams and Committees

- Invite:** Bonnye Bell
- Celebrate:** Eric Olson
- Nourish:** Bridget Pudimat
- Send:** Tracy Williams
- Stewardship:** Jane Kilby
- Property:** Jim Dennis
- Finance:** Jane Kilby
- Fellowship:** Leslie Allen

Thank You

Words are insufficient to express how thankful I am for all the help and support given to me during my hospitalization and home recuperation. Thank you, Pastor Locke, for your visits, administering Holy Communion, prayers, and phone calls. Thank you, my church family, for your prayers, visits, phone calls, doing errands, providing meals, doing laundry, taking care of my mail, and checking on my home. Most of all, thank you for your love and encouragement.

I know the Lord helped me, answered prayers, and improved my serious situation.

What a blessing we have at St. Mark's with Pastor Locke as shepherd over a beautiful flock of sheep.

Thank you and praise you, Lord, for always being with and carrying us when needed.

—Clara Echerer

February Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Peyton Harkrider | February 1 |
| Bernie Giancola | February 7 |
| Christina Brown | February 9 |
| Brian Snyder | February 9 |
| Eric Stupski | February 12 |
| Rose Tallman | February 15 |
| Kamm Eckels | February 17 |
| Jill Hillis | February 19 |
| Carol Daraskevich | February 23 |
| Kim Dodds | February 23 |
| Eddie Jackson | February 25 |

February Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Kim & Greg Dodds | February 25 |
|------------------|-------------|

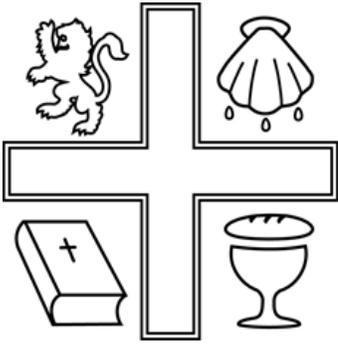
St. Mark's Newsletters

St. Mark's has two newsletters. *The Lion's Roar* is distributed weekly and by email (*E-Roar*), and *The Messenger* is distributed monthly (primarily through email, but available in print upon request). Gina Olson does layout and editing for both of them.

The deadline for *The Lion's Roar* is by noon on each Wednesday, and *The Messenger* deadline is the 15th day of each month.

Peggy Cornely

Peggy Cornely had colon cancer and had been under hospice care for two weeks when she died last year on September 7. Peggy's cremains were brought to Jacksonville in late January to be buried near Henry's grave in the Old City Cemetery.



Worship & Office Hours

Worship Services:

Saturdays (Casual/Contemporary)

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning at 9:30 am

Children are welcome in worship, but a nursery is available.

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

The office is closed on national holidays.

Contact us

Church Office

3976 Hendricks Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32207

Office phone: 904-396-9608

Fax: 904-396-3515

Email: admin@stmarksjax.org (for office and council)

Web: www.stmarksjax.org



Facebook Page (Public):

www.facebook.com/stmarksjax

Facebook Group (Private/Request to join):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/94748356090/>

The Lion's Roar & The Messenger

Gina Olson

Email: stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com



Contact us

Ministry Staff

Pastor Daniel Locke *Pastor*

Phone: (828) 638-3280

Email: Pastor.Daniel.Locke@gmail.com

Tony Cruz *Cantor*

Office phone: 904-396-9608 x 103

Email: cantortonycruz@gmail.com

Congregational Council

Ray Booth *President (2019)*

Phone: (904) 673-0048

Email: RayBooth55@gmail.com

John Trainer *Vice-President (2019)*

Elizabeth Jenkins *Secretary (2020)*

Jane Kilby *Treasurer (2018)*

Tracy Williams (2018)

Bridget Pudimat (2018)

Leslie Allen (2018)

Jim Dennis (2019)

Alonzo Batson (2020)

Bonnye Bell (2020)

St. Mark's Ark Preschool

Patrice Roux-Neal

Director of St. Mark's Ark Preschool

Office phone: 904-346-0404

Email: director@stmarksark.com

Web: www.stmarksark.com

