



# The Messenger

*from St. Mark's*

August/September 2018

Homecoming Sunday

Vacation Bible School

Founders Day

Hurricane Harvey, Not Forgotten



## The Routines and Habits That Matter

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*  
- John 13:35

August and September are always transitional months for the church. People begin returning from summer travel, and summer routines begin to shift to different structures and schedules. As the child of an academic and someone who always loved school, I always love the resumption of our program year in the church. I love to see kids coming to church with backpacks to be blessed, the assembly of the Ministry Fair on Homecoming Sunday, the sounds of the choirs rehearsing during the week, bible studies resuming, and our 9.00am and 11.15am worship schedule.

This year we will have some exciting things to look forward to in addition to these normal routines.

The *Pathways to Hope* Conference is entering its third year. Under the leadership of The Rev. Carol Morehead, we have been co-sponsors of this important conversation that seeks to bring understanding and hope about mental health concerns as well as resources to the community. This year one of the featured speakers will be The Rev. Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms. Well known in our diocese, she is an Episcopal priest who has witnessed deeply to the hope and promise for recovery in the gospel. We will be happy to welcome her as our guest preacher on August 26 at the 10.00am service.

On Homecoming Sunday, September 9, in addition to our Ministry Fair and fall kickoff, we will welcome our new Organist and Choirmaster, Jon Johnson. He is coming to us from Lexington, Kentucky. He brings many gifts to us and a love for the church that made him an obvious choice to join us in ministry.

On October 14, we will celebrate our 160th anniversary with a Founder's Day Celebration.

I am more aware than ever of the challenges of making church a priority in our busy and hectic lives. I am also more aware than ever that choosing to be formed as a Christian is incredibly important. Our culture would have us oriented in ways that are often destructive, prone to unseen levels of anxiety across demographic groups, and increasingly divided across all kinds of lines. The church is one of the few places we are called together for a different reason. It doesn't mean we always do it perfectly, but we put our hope in something beyond ourselves. We invite Jesus Christ to be the mediator of love between us. And on our best days, we are beacons of that love to one another. So, I invite you to make your participation in this community a priority. And invite someone who has never been here to join you. It might be for worship, an outreach event, a concert, or simply Wednesday night dinner. Make your own participation also an offer of hospitality. People want to be invited!

Peace,



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

### Save the Dates

**Sunday, August 26**

Blessing of the Backpacks

**Wednesday, September 5**

Wednesday Night Programming Resumes

**Sunday, September 9**

Homecoming Sunday, Ministry Fair, and Fall Service Schedule Resumes

**Sunday, September 16**

Formation Resumes

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## But Who Do You Say I Am? - Formation 2018-2019

“Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say that I am?’ They answered, ‘John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’

- Luke 9:18-20

We live in a world filled with questions about identity. Modern life loudly tries to tell us we are defined by what we wear, what we drive, how we look, who we know. The tension between being unique and fitting in with the crowd sometimes wears us down. From early on in our lives, we search for answers to who we are, as humans, as members of a family or a community or a nation. And certainly this question of identity is central to our life of faith.

In the gospels, the question of Jesus’ identity is central to the narrative, as Jesus teaches his disciples through his words and actions. They struggle to grasp what is being revealed; slowly, the answers begin to come. Jesus leads the disciples through this exercise of identity, first of who Jesus is and then of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. He asks them who people think he is, and then he gets to the real heart of the matter: *But who do you say that I am?*

In the 2018-2019 program year, we will spend our time in formation exploring this question of who Jesus is and how our identity as Christians is intimately tied to the answers. In the Rector’s Forum, The Rev. Beth Knowlton, along with numerous co-teachers, will explore these questions of identity as we get back to the basics of our identity as the community of faith. The class will wrap up the year with a special Faith in the City series.

Track Two classes will also delve into these questions of who we are, especially in the midst of changes, missteps, and the unexpected, looking at resilience, imperfection, and planning for the different stages of life’s journey. These offerings will include a series featuring a look at Brene Brown’s work in resilience, *Rising Strong*; a study of *The Spirituality of Imperfection*; and a Planning for Life’s Seasons class.

In addition to the Sunday formation offerings, we will continue to mark the important liturgical rhythm of our year with Advent and Lenten Quiet Days. The Adult Confirmation Class will convene beginning in January, culminating in the wonderful joy of the Feast of St. Mark’s and our annual Bishop’s visit. *Images of the Divine in Film* will meet again this year, with four featured films spread out from October through May. Weekly bible study will continue with the Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Time Out Bible Study on Thursdays. Two EfM classes will be meeting in the year, one on Sunday and one on Thursday. New for the Program Year will be a *Rising Strong* retreat and a special class for families about the liturgy, *Little Hands at the Altar*, in February.

This promises to be a year in which together we can explore our identity as followers of Jesus, Episcopal-style. With multiple ways to explore, we hope that everyone will find a way to be connected. Look for all the specifics in the Parish Life Handbook on Homecoming Sunday, September 9.

## Homecoming Sunday and Ministry Fair

It’s that time of year again, and the Ministry Fair is upon us! On Sunday, September 9, at 10.10am in Gosnell Hall, we’ll have the opportunity to learn about many of the ministries that happen in and throughout our St. Mark’s community. We’ll also get to meet many of the people who work with the non-profits that our Outreach Grants helped to fund this year. The Ministry Fair is our best opportunity to sign up to participate in a new ministry, to re-commit to the ministries we’re already a part of, and to learn about volunteer opportunities through our Outreach Grant recipients. Be sure to pick up your handy-dandy Parish Life Handbook during the fair.

- **Reconnect** with familiar faces after a long summer and meet a few new faces
- **Learn** about this year’s Outreach Grant recipients and how you can become involved with the good work they are doing
- **Eat** a fabulous, free breakfast
- **Participate** in the excitement and energy around the start of a new program year
- **Discern** the impact your time and talents can have in one of the many ministries at St. Mark’s
- **Meet** our new Organist and Choirmaster, Jon Johnson

## Pastoral Care Update

The Care Committee has been busy at work for the coming year, with several ongoing projects coming to fruition. The Community of Hope class convened last September, with a group of nine St. Mark's members training for 14 sessions over the program year. This summer, the class has been engaged in a practicum, learning more deeply about how to share, care, and listen as lay chaplains within our community. This faithful cohort look forward to being commissioned in September and will be part of the overall pastoral care team within our parish. Members include Doug Addington, Flor Hernandez Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Ruth Burink, Gillian Cook, Beth Hawkins, Lillian Morris, Sandy Ragan, and Agatha Wade.



The Rev. Carol Morehead

St. Mark's took part in a major study commissioned by the HE Butt Family Foundation and conducted by the UTSA Department of Sociology. We were one of 16 local faith communities chosen to participate. Many of you filled out surveys in May which are being analyzed and compiled with the other faith communities. These Christian communities are from many denominations, with churches both large and small participating. Preliminary results will be discussed at the *Pathways to Hope* conference in August, and the full study will be out later in the year. Thanks to everyone who took the time to do the survey!



Our ongoing participation in the *Pathways to Hope* Conference continues this year, with the conference happening August 24-25. A collaborative gathering of faith communities, families, mental health professionals, community partners, and government representatives, *Pathways to Hope* brings together speakers and teachers from across the country who will inspire and educate those attending about mental health, often through sharing their own story in hopes of breaking the stigma of mental illness. Featured speakers this year include Rear Admiral James Winnefeld and his wife Mary, who experienced the death of their son due to opioid addiction and have turned their grief into hope for others; Denalyn Lucado, who will

share her journey of depression and she found hope; Grammy award winning singer Ashley Cleveland, who will share her journey of addiction and recovery; Pulitzer prize winning author Ron Powers, whose own family experiences have led him to look more closely at how we as a country treat those who experience mental illness; The Rev. Becca Stevens; who started Thistle Farms, and our own Dr. Dan Morehead, who will share life lessons he has learned from his patients. In addition to the plenary presentations, over 15 workshops will explore a variety of topics, and continuing education units are available. The conference is held at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, and it is free to all. St. Mark's has helped in past years by providing space, volunteers, and financial support. This year, too, we need volunteers for the event. Mostly, we hope that many people will attend; bring your friends! For details and to register for free, go to [www.pathwaystohope.net](http://www.pathwaystohope.net).

The pastoral care team will also be a partner with Adult Formation for the spring class on Planning for Life's Seasons. We will talk about a theological framework for aging, death, and stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures. The class will cover topics relevant from cradle to grave, inviting us to look closely at how our attention to life's stages makes a difference both personally and to our broader community.

As always, we hope that whenever any member of St. Mark's has a pastoral need, no matter how small, everyone will feel empowered to reach out for help to anyone involved in our team, as together we answer the call of community by caring for one another in our lives together.



## Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Mark's was a blast! Including volunteers, we had over 100 people join us for a week in Ancient Babylon full of games, crafts, snacks, and learning about God and one of his faithful followers, Daniel. Our time together was not only fun but incredibly meaningful as we learned that God is always with us - no matter what.



Abby Richards

We started and ended each day of VBS with "Celebration Time" in the church. Here we learned the songs for the week (and their silly motions) as well as each day's theme and Bible verse. These times are always a great way to celebrate all that God is doing in the lives of the children, as well as to see how much they enjoy this special week at the church. Celebration time was followed by a rotation of games, tribe activity, crafts, visiting the prayer tent, storytelling, and snacks. The children enjoyed all the different activities planned for them, and eagerly participated with fun-loving spirits and lots of energy!

We want to say THANK YOU to all of the adults and youth who volunteered to help make this week possible. A special thank you to Meredith and our junior high youth group for making VBS their Junior Outreach Experience. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having you. Lastly, a very special thank you to Rachel Doyle for co-directing this week with me. She gave countless hours organizing, planning, creating, and trouble-shooting. Thank you, Rachel, this week would not have happened without you.

We hope you enjoy the pictures of VBS 2018 in this issue and on our Facebook page - we are already looking forward to what God has in store for us next summer - hope to see everyone there.

## A Note from Jon Johnson

Dear friends,

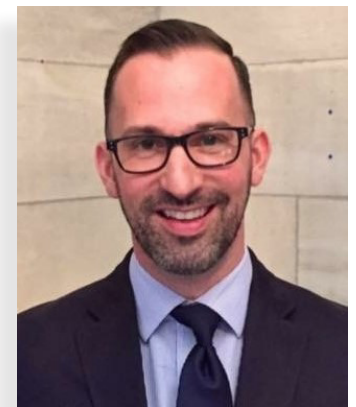
It is hard to believe that we are half way through the summer and, soon, Jimmy and I will be moving to San Antonio. We are both anxious and thrilled to make this transition in our lives. Obviously, any transition requires imagining what it is like to live in a new city and environment: the culture, the people, a new job, and new friends. I was extremely impressed during my visits to San Antonio and St. Mark's because everyone was genuinely nice and hospitable.

As I prepare to join you in a few weeks, I ask for your prayers for a smooth journey as Jimmy and I prepare to move and be in new surroundings. I'm excited to be a part of the community at St. Mark's, and I look forward to getting to know each of you through conversations over coffee or sharing a meal together. I also ask that you be patient with me as I grow into the St. Mark's community, learning from you about what it means to live out and further our mission through music and the arts.

Finally, I would like to encourage families with children in 1st - 12th grades to think about enrolling in one of the various children and youth choirs. This is a great way for children and youth to learn about the liturgy, build musical skills for life, be a team player, and experience what it means to give back and minister to those assembled in our weekly liturgies. Also, if you or someone you know is interested in joining the St. Mark's Choir, I extend the invitation to be in touch with me. No matter what age, God may be calling you to become a part of the music ministry at St. Mark's.

Sincerely,

Jon



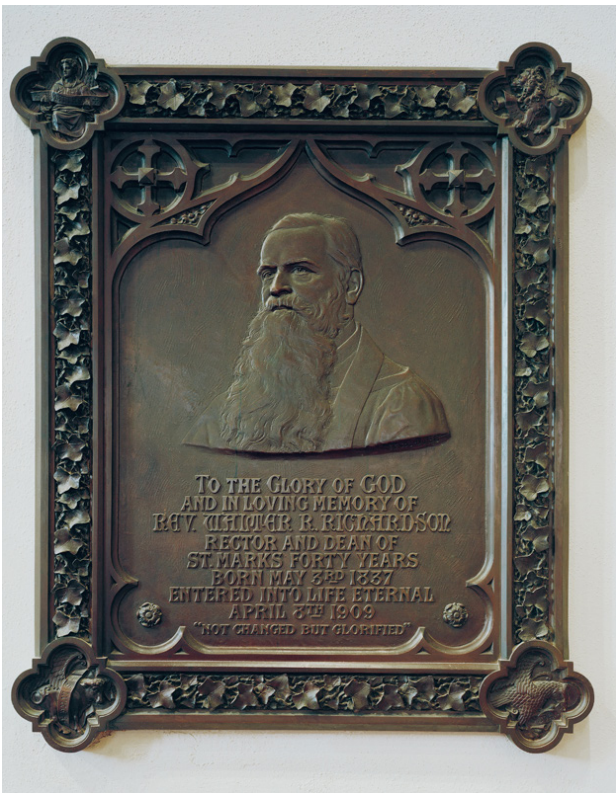
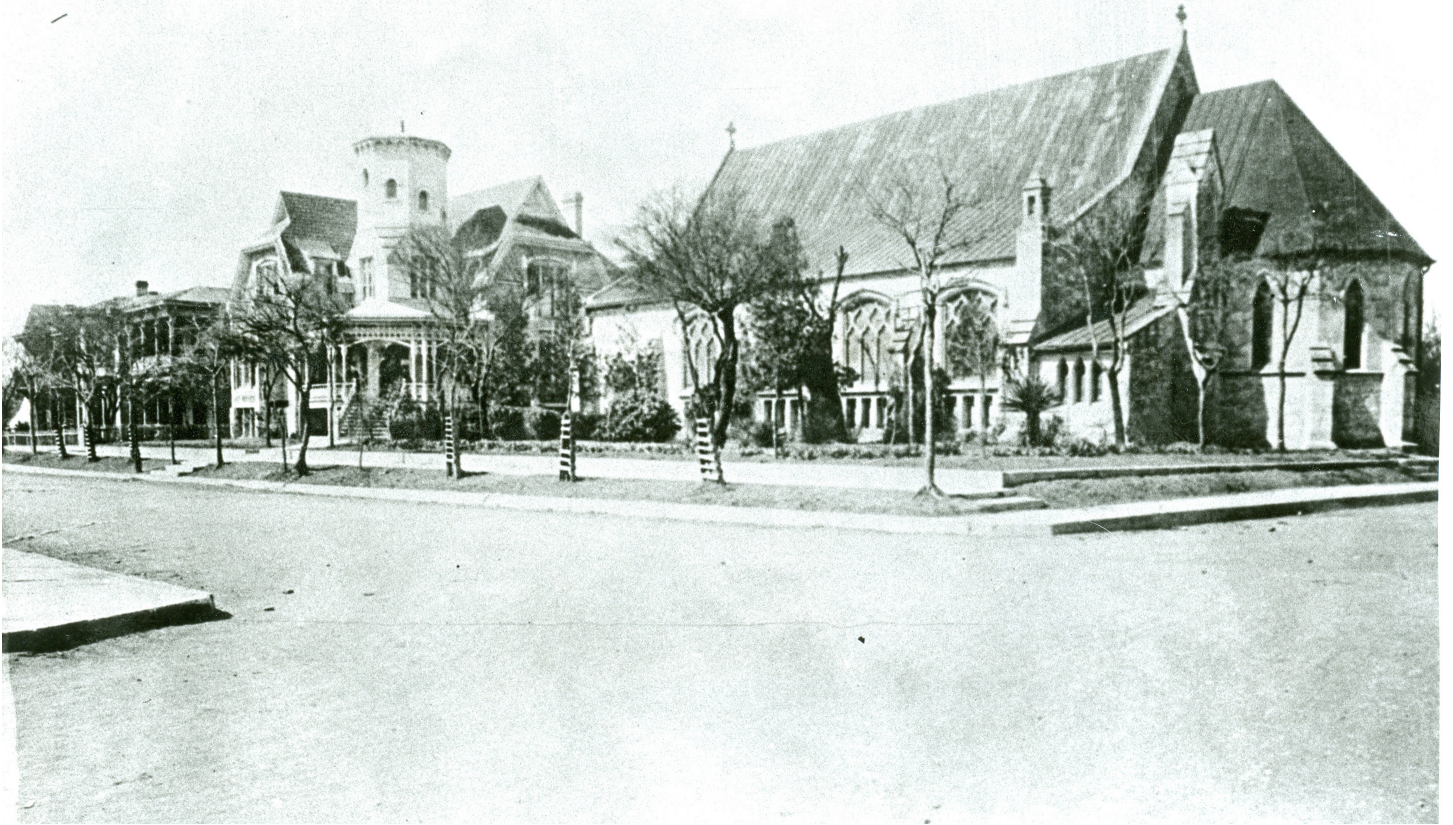










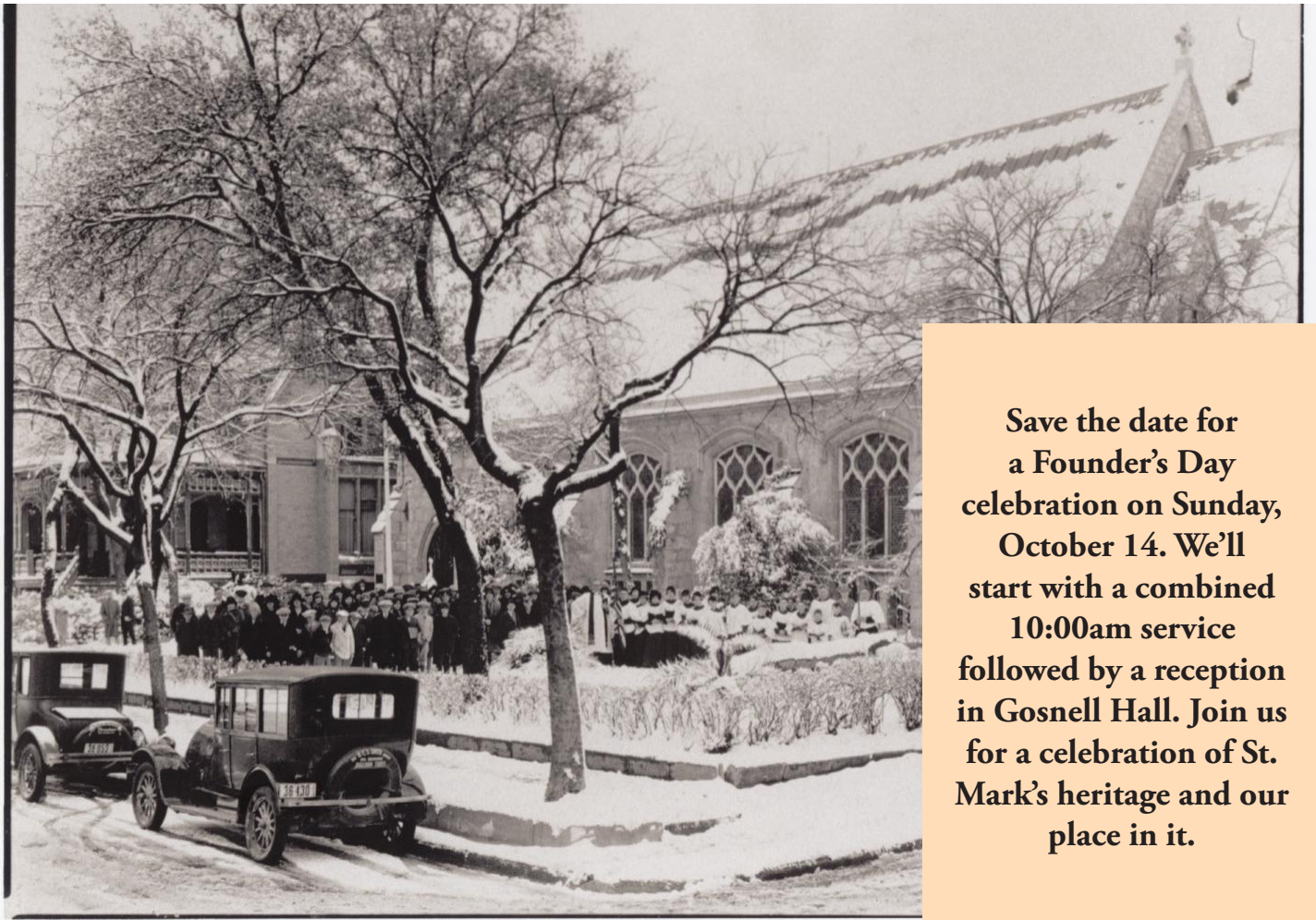




Founders Day - October 14



St. Mark's  
Circa 1945



**Save the date for a Founder's Day celebration on Sunday, October 14. We'll start with a combined 10:00am service followed by a reception in Gosnell Hall. Join us for a celebration of St. Mark's heritage and our place in it.**



## Hurricane Harvey, Not Forgotten

George and Dee Whiteside traveled many miles in their RV. After the devastation of Hurricane Harvey last fall, it didn't take long for George and Dee to decide to donate it. They took some time to make a few repairs and on June 27, the Whitesides gifted their RV to the Wolford family at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Victoria.

The Wolford family lived near Missouri City when Hurricane Harvey hit, causing Rachel and Billy Wolford to lose their jobs and home. For the last 10 months, Rachel, Billy, and their three children have lived in a 10-person tent and in their car. The family endured many hardships during these 10 months without a home, including snow while living in the tent! Billy said this season of life really tested their faith, but they have become closer as a family and are truly grateful for this new home.

The Wolfords signed the paperwork to make the RV theirs and were able to meet George and Dee. Arrayah, their middle child, held Dee's hand as the family toured their new home and did not let go until it was time for George and Dee to leave. Dee said that it was a wonderful experience and the children's eyes sparkled with excitement while exploring their new home.

The exchange was a joyous occasion for all! Thanks to Jennifer Wickham with the DWTX Disaster Recovery and Catholic Charities for making this possible. Special thanks to Samantha Douty at the Victoria Advocate for original content. For more information on Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, please visit the diocesan website, [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org).



Pictured here from left to right: George Whiteside, Rachel Wolford, Israel Wolford, Billy Wolford, Arrayah Wolford, Dee Whiteside, and Aya Wolford

## Parking at St. Mark's

Our parking lots serve an important role in supporting all that we do at St. Mark's. Between the east and west lots we have 248 parking spaces. Our main lot (on the east side of the church) is most visible to members and visitors as our parking lot. But we also have a smaller lot on the west side of the church with 74 spaces. A parking sticker identifies your car as belonging to a member of St. Mark's. Complimentary member parking is offered for all St. Mark's worship times and our events.

Given our prime location, our lots are attractive for plenty of other venues including Travis Park, festivals, and the River Walk, to name just a few. This is a key reason our parking lots can generate substantial revenue for our annual programming. When you park in St. Mark's lots for a non-St. Mark's event, please remember to pay for parking.

Would it surprise you to know that we receive as much revenue from the parking lot as we do from our endowment and designated funds combined? Parking revenue accounts for 10% of our annual revenue.

We have an excellent working relationship with Hospitality Parking that allows us to maximize revenue for the church while keeping our lots available for our own events.

On Sunday mornings, you'll often see the gate at the back of the east lot open for overflow parking. This gate is closed again after services to help protect cars that contract for longer-term parking.

If you come to church and find the east lot full, which happens from time to time, remember to check the west lot. We actually have fewer security issues in this lot; we have empirical data to back that up! And while it may seem like a farther walk, it's actually the same distance to the main Church and Parish House entrances.



## In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru July 17, 2018)

### MEMORIALS

**John Crone III** by Jenny Crone, Tanya and John Crone IV  
**Allison Duesing** by Carol and Jack Hebdon, Sarah Joe and Phil LeMessurier  
**Pauline Gillespie Gossett** by Robert F. Gossett, Jr.  
**Amanda Ochse** by Anne Hardinge, Laura and Weir LaBatt III, Jean Rumsey, Betsy and David Simpson, Elsie Steg, Jill and George Vassar  
**Selma Satel** by Debbie and Larry Reile

### CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Bev Okerwall** by SueAnn Knobloch

### BEREAVEMENT FUND

**John Crone III** by Cary and Walter Bain, Sally and Rhew Dooley

### RUBY'S KITCHEN

**Allison Duesing** by Patrice and Joey Oliver

### IN SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS and WORSHIP

**Raul Carrejo** by Vangie Carrejo

### SPECIAL GIFTS

To the Outreach Fund **in thanksgiving for Jia Yen Chi** by Cynthia Chi  
 To St. Mark's **in honor of Megan Steves on her Confirmation** by Jill and George Vassar  
 To St. Mark's **in honor Marianne Hileman on her Reception** by Jill and George Vassar  
 To St. Mark's **in honor of Will Hileman on his Confirmation** by Jill and George Vassar  
 To St. Cecilia **in honor of John Tarr on his birthday** by Clytie Phelps  
 To St. Cecilia **in thanksgiving for Joe Causby** by Chris Waldrip  
 To St. Mark's **in honor of Megan Steves on her Confirmation** by Mollie and Bartell Zachry  
 To St. Mark's **in honor of Marian Hall and Suzy Tackett on the Renewal of their Vows** by Mollie and Bartell Zachry  
 To St. Mark's **in thanksgiving for Nance Haney and Jackie Raney, our grandmothers**, by Margaret and Miller Raney  
 To Children's and Youth Ministries **in thanksgiving for my grandchildren, Bianca, Lyla and Kristian** by Adelina Rodriguez  
 To St. Mark's **in honor of Mary and Lewis Fisher on their 50th wedding anniversary** by Mary Jane and Raymond Judd

## Financials

### 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 06/30/2018

50% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$973,661	\$991,604
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$149,452	\$126,000
Seasonal Giving	\$12,445	\$10,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$205,756	\$208,659
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$169,623	\$190,072
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,510,936</b>	<b>\$1,526,336</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,331,494</b>	<b>\$1,414,564</b>
<b>Over/(Under)</b>	<b>\$179,442</b>	<b>\$111,772</b>

\$1,670,187 in 2018 Pledges • 302 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,530 • Median Pledge is \$2,896

## Clergy at St. Mark's

**Parish Clergy:** The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton, Rector; The Rev. Carol Morehead, Associate Rector for Liturgy, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care; The Rev. Matthew Wise, Associate Rector for Outreach, Family Ministry, and Parish Life

**Making a Gift of Their Service:** The Rev. C. Douglas Earle, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Mary Earle, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop; The Rev. Mary Margaret Mueller, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop

**24 hour pastoral care  
 emergency phone  
 210-507-0256**



Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

Cost: \$8.00 adults | \$6.00 children (under 6 yrs old)

SEPTEMBER 5-6  
Chicken Tetrazzini  
Sautéed Broccoli  
Garlic Bread Sticks  
Garden Salad  
Chocolate Brownies

SEPTEMBER 12-13  
Bar B Que Brisket  
Baked Potato Casserole  
Green Beans  
Garden Salad  
Cake

SEPTEMBER 19-20  
Cheese Enchiladas  
Charro Beans  
Mexican Rice  
Garden Salad  
Chocolate Chip Cookies

SEPTEMBER 26-27  
Traditional Lasagna  
Green Beans  
Garlic Bread Sticks  
Garden Salad  
Cheesecake

Photos in this Issue

Cover photo: Rachel Dugger

Photos in this issue provided by: Rachel Dugger, Eric Nelson, Patrice Oliver, Jennifer Wickham