



THE MESSENGER

from St. Mark's

December 2019/January 2020

Building Update

Advent and Christmas Offerings

Music from St. Mark's



*“Many peoples shall come and say,
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”*
- Isaiah 2:3

Advent is the beginning of the Christian calendar, and as we emerge from the haze of emergency response around our scaffolding woes of September, I’m ready for a new year. I’m proud and grateful for the way our community has responded. I suspect we are all longing for a return to routines.

We have for the last several years used this season as a time for community gathering. We have a combined service at 10.00am and weekly intergenerational offerings at 9.00am. The good news is that these will continue. They may be in slightly different places and with different configurations, but we will still make Advent wreaths, celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas, tell the story of the Nativity through the voices of our children, and travel the pilgrimage of Los Posadas. We will have a beautiful service of Lessons and Carols and bring back the Christmas Pops concert, including Britten’s Ceremony of Carols and *’Twas the Night before Christmas*. Ann Fraser will offer an Advent Quiet Evening as a way to more fully explore a contemplative approach to the season. We will still feed those who are hungry for real food with our annual Christmas to the Street offering here and at Haven for Hope.

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with beautiful services with preludes at 3.45pm, 7.45pm, and 10.00pm on Christmas Eve and 10.00am on Christmas Day.

HEB is once again sponsoring the San Antonio Christmas Tree in Travis Park and this year there promises to be an ice rink as well! This festive offering in our back yard invites us to find new ways to engage with those who find themselves in our midst and are seeking meaning in their lives. The many offerings of this time provide a wonderful opportunity for you to invite people you know to join us and to commit yourself to participating fully. It’s a busy time of year, but I invite you to mark your calendars and make the space to fully experience the gifts this church season offers us as we prepare to once again welcome the birth of the Christ child.

It is also a time of regular transitions in our leadership. I give thanks for our Senior Warden Paul Allen, who graciously added a year to his Vestry term to provide us greater continuity. I am happy to announce that Brooks Englehardt has agreed to serve as our next Senior Warden for the coming two years and Ann Leafstedt will complete her second year as our Junior Warden. They have both been very active in our response to the scaffolding event and this will provide important continuity as we move into reconstruction. I am thankful for the service of our outgoing Vestry members, Gary Chambers, Anne Connor, Kate Crone, Mike Duffey, and Kelly Ranson. I’m excited to welcome our new Vestry class, David Byrd, George Spencer, Veda White, Laura Wickham, and Lucy Wilson

I’m also grateful for Joey Oliver, who has served faithfully for the past three years as our Treasurer. His steady presence has allowed for important continuity in our financial oversight. Lisa Uhl has graciously agreed to serve as our next Treasurer and has been serving alongside Joey in recent months as we prepare next year’s budget. We as always are depending on a strong financial response in December to put us in a good position for the new year.

As we enter a new season in our common life with one another, I continue to give thanks for the faithful dedication of our people. The work of the Spirit is evident and manifest among us. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Beeth +

ADULT FORMATION

Wrestling Required- Changed By Our Encounters With God

The Rev. Ann Fraser and The Rev. Matt Wise
10.10am
The Radius

Change is almost always difficult and can sometimes even be painful. In the story of Jacob (Genesis 35), Jacob has a wrestling match that breaks his hip, but changes his very identity. This class is intended to help us dig deeply into our own spiritual journeys, invite us to wrestle with how we experience God, ourselves, and each other, and to challenge us to engage our faith in ways that might actually change who we are. We will use a new format in this forum which will begin with a 15-20 minute teaching led by clergy and laity from around The Episcopal Church. (These teachers are trusted colleagues and friends of your St. Mark's clergy and we very much look forward to their participation with us in this forum!) The class will then have table conversations in small groups facilitated by intentionally crafted discussion questions.

God's Dream for the World

January 12	The Implications of Incarnation
January 19	The Upside Down: Your Kingdom Come
January 26	Connection or Dependence?
February 2	Suffering and the God of Love
February 9	The Cycle of Death and Resurrection
February 16	Reconciliation of All Things
February 23	Living from Hope Rather than Fear

CONFIRMATION

Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation

Led by The Rev. Matthew Wise
Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation class will be held on Wednesday evenings January 8, 15, 29, February 12, March 4, 25, and April 1 from 6.30-8.00pm. Each class builds on the previous class, so plan to attend every session. If you are interested in participating but know you must miss a class, prior arrangements should be made. We will also gather at the Bishop Jones Center on Saturday, January 11 from 10.30am-2.30pm, where we will share a meal, meet the bishop, and cover some additional ground. The class is open to all those seeking to be confirmed, received, or who would like a refresher. Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 31 at the combined 10.00am service. For more information, email The Rev. Matthew Wise at mwise@stmarks-sa.org.

Youth Confirmation

Youth Confirmation is for 8th grade youth and any high school students who would like to be confirmed. The class will meet for seven weeks throughout the winter and spring during the 10.10am Formation hour. The youth will be led in discussion of topics including: church history, the sacraments, becoming a young adult, the community of the church, and living a life of faith. Students are allowed to miss only two classes. Class dates are as follows: February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 8, 22, and May 3. Students will be expected to participate in the Day of Prayer and Service on Sunday, March 29, attend a dinner with the Bishop during the week prior to confirmation, and meet for a rehearsal for confirmation Saturday, May 30. Confirmation will be held on Pentecost (5/31) during the 10.00am service. This year confirmands, along with youth who have been confirmed in the past, are invited to attend a retreat April 17-19 to renew our faith, reflect on the lessons we have learned from class, and take our faith outside of the church walls.

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The last issue of the Messenger had already gone to press when we experienced the unforeseen damage to our Parish House from the scaffolding on the night of September 19. We've spent much of the last six weeks in the process of remediation and damage assessment. Much of the water damage came from the crushing of the chiller unit on the roof. Water has a habit of moving and as we have continued to assess, we have found areas that originally were not thought to be damaged, now in need of significant repair.

We have successfully restored access to the parts of the Parish House that we will be able to use throughout the reconstruction. The most exciting development has been the ability to remove the plastic tubing throughout the Parish House and Church and use existing air handlers with a temporary chiller on Martin Street to provide heating and air to the entire property. This has allowed us to resume our weekly offerings, including bible studies, Sunday Formation, and our planned parish events. We are grateful to have temporary space at The Radius building next door that has allowed our choirs to practice and gives us a larger gathering space for parish wide events.

The areas that have the most significant damage and will not be available until construction is complete include Gish Hall, choir practice areas, Jerusalem Chapel, Meredith Rogers' office, the kitchen, Gosnell Hall, and Bethlehem Chapel. These areas suffered much water damage, and demolition to allow for reconstruction is just now concluding. Bethlehem Chapel will need to have the roof repaired and the floor along with the wooden beams on the ceiling replaced.

The loss of our kitchen is particularly challenging. The entire kitchen has been gutted including the office, but the serving line should be able to remain as far as we know at this time. We do have a kitchen resource room that allows us to provide coffee and store disposable items that facilitate bringing in catered food for our beloved events.

We do not know how long reconstruction will take. We are currently engaged in the process of getting bids, but I don't anticipate knowing the entire scope of the project until after the first of the year. There may be some areas that we are able to reconfigure for

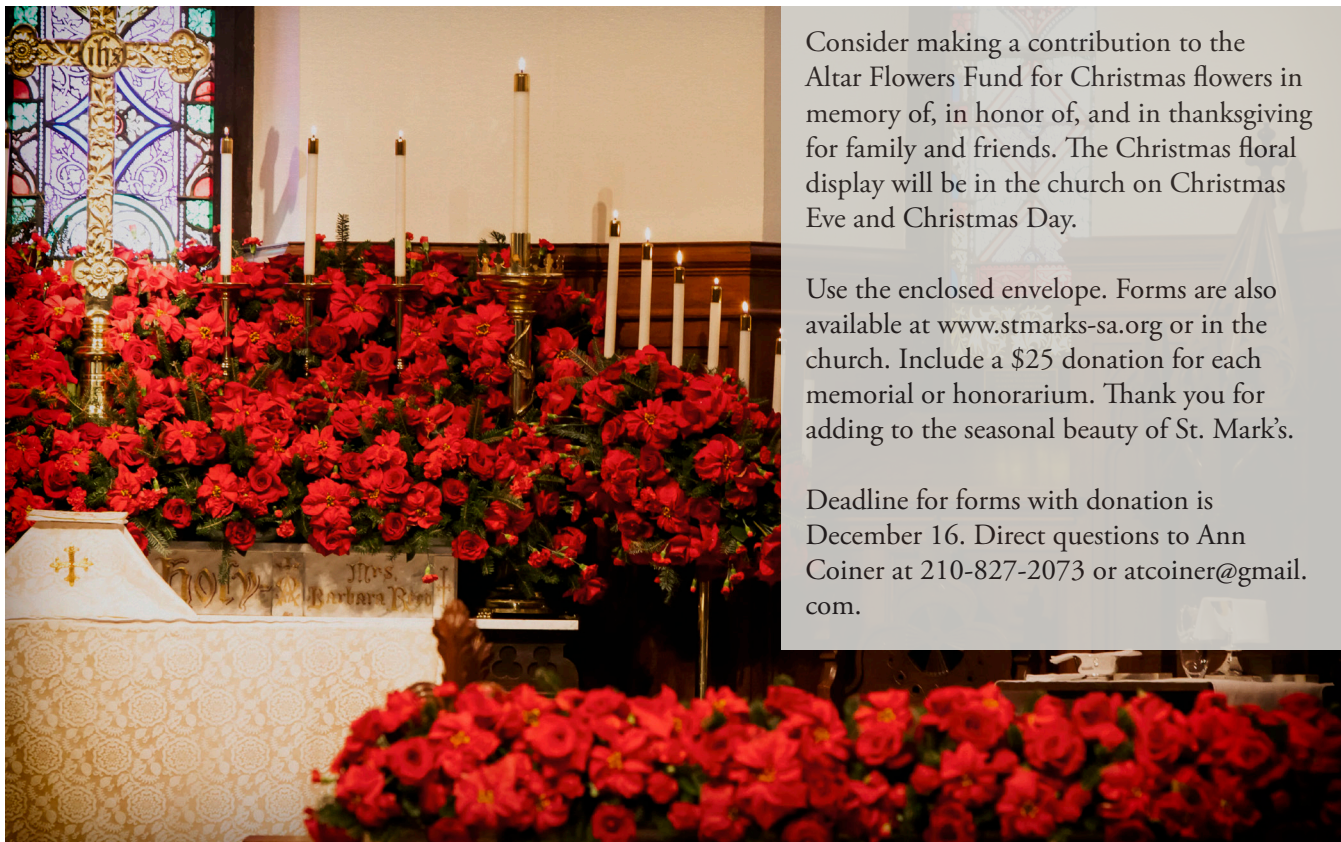


current usage needs, but again that will take some time to fully assess. We are leaving the emergency response phase and entering into the phase that is sometimes more difficult. We will take the time to adequately assess damage to make sure we are being fully compensated for our loss and made whole. Our insurance provides regular draws of funds, so that we do not pay for remediation and repair out of pocket. We are keeping our hourly staff whole and redeploying them if their scope of work is not currently available.

It is a challenging time, but it has been full of blessings as well. People with amazing technical resources have been available and willing to help. Much of the assessment work our facility team has been working on for the last two years has made this a much more tenable project. We have a much greater depth of knowledge about our systems and facility than we might have had in the past, including strong relationships with contractors that also know our systems and will be helpful as we rebuild. Our staff has stepped up in sacrificial ways to support the ongoing life of our community. The coming months will require continued patience and creativity as we relearn how to be community. I'm grateful for the strength and commitment of our people.

-- Submitted by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton





Consider making a contribution to the Altar Flowers Fund for Christmas flowers in memory of, in honor of, and in thanksgiving for family and friends. The Christmas floral display will be in the church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Use the enclosed envelope. Forms are also available at www.stmarks-sa.org or in the church. Include a \$25 donation for each memorial or honorarium. Thank you for adding to the seasonal beauty of St. Mark's.

Deadline for forms with donation is December 16. Direct questions to Ann Coiner at 210-827-2073 or atcoiner@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS TO THE STREET

December 13 & 14

Christmas to the Street began in 2004 as an outreach ministry led by the St. Mark's Youth and Kitchen Ministries. The goal was simple, provide a generous home-cooked meal to our neighbors in downtown San Antonio.

The response and support from the community has continued to grow each year. Our volunteer base of over 150 youth and adults spend over 24 hours preparing, cooking, serving, and working to make these meals special. We serve at St. Mark's and Haven for Hope. Altogether, Christmas to the Street 2019 will serve roughly 1,700 meals to hungry men, women, and children.

To volunteer for Christmas to the Street, visit our homepage (www.stmarks-sa.org) and click Sign Ups/Reservations. Questions? Contact Shea Pollom at spollom@stmarks-sa.org.



WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S COME AND GO CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 5

11.30am-1.30pm

Plan to join the Women of St. Mark's for the annual come and go luncheon. This year, Linda Blount will host (700 Grandview Pl, San Antonio, TX 78209). Valet parking will be available. RSVP by Monday, December 2, 2019 to Rachel Dugger (rdugger@stmarks-sa.org) or 210-226-2426.

ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL FORMATION

This Advent season we return to Formation in an intergenerational and hands-on format. Each Sunday members from across our parish will join together to learn, to celebrate, and of course, to eat breakfast! Please join us for the following offerings at 9.00am every week:

Advent I | December 1 | Creating An Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter, and they've been a part of the Christian church's Advent traditions since the 8th Century. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. The Advent Wreath is a way of marking time in this Season of Advent as we gradually add more light each Sunday until Christ, our Light, comes at Christmas. On this Sunday, we'll create our own take-home versions of this traditional tool which doubles as a beautiful decoration.

Advent II | December 8 | Celebrating Saint Nicholas

Two days after the church's Feast of St. Nicholas (December 6), we will be visited by St. Nick himself who will tell us a bit of his story. Nicholas was a 4th Century bishop in the ancient Greek town of Myra whose selfless giving, especially of secret gifts, became the stuff of legend. He's likely one of the bishops who was summoned to the Council of Nicaea from which we get our Nicene Creed. We know his spirit to live on, of course, in Santa Claus.

Advent III | December 15 | Christmas Pageant and Living Nativity

The Christmas Pageant is always a wonderful celebration for our whole parish family wherein our children get to experience the nativity stories from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew in new ways. This year the pageant will be a series of tableaux created by our costumed children with the living nativity animals, and adults will be shepherded through each scene in small groups. Together we will sing some of your favorite Christmas hymns and experience once again the joy and wonder in this story of God becoming human. Rehearsal for children Pre-K 4 through 5th grade will take place on Saturday, December 7 at 9.00am.

Advent IV | December 22 | Las Posadas

Las Posadas (Spanish for "the inns") is a 400-year-old Mexican tradition that reenacts the story from Luke's Gospel in which Joseph and a very pregnant Mary searching for lodging (Luke 2.1-7). In our celebration of Las Posadas at St. Mark's, children and adults will journey as pilgrims or peregrinos around our campus, led by Joseph and Mary who are seeking a place to rest and give birth to their baby. At each door that we stop to knock on, we'll sing the traditional Spanish song, and finally after several stops, we will be welcomed into the "inn" and a celebration, including food, will follow.



ADVENT QUIET EVENING

Wednesday, December 4

6.00-8.30pm

Led by The Rev. Ann Fraser

"Let it be unto me as you have spoken," said Mary, consenting to cooperate with God's purpose for her life. This Advent, join us for an evening of reflection and exploration, using art and the creative process to discover what God is inviting us into. No artistic skills needed.

Dinner will be offered at 6.00pm. Register for the Advent Quiet Evening on our website (www.stmarks-sa.org). Click Sign Ups/Reservations.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 8

4.30pm Prelude by Sonido Barroco

5.00pm Lessons and Carols

Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of love and redemption. The readings are interspersed with carols, choral music, and congregational singing of hymns. The format for this service originated in England in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, England, and thus began a tradition that is now 100 years old. This service has been adapted by many churches all over the world as part of their Advent and Christmas worship. A candle-lit service of Advent Lessons and Carols continues the season of Advent with readings, prayers, and carols sung by the combined choirs of St. Mark's. Come early to get a seat in time to hear the 4.30pm prelude presented by members of Sonido Barroco, featuring our Assistant Organist/Choirmaster, Samuel Gaskin. Music will include pieces for the Advent season by J.S. Bach, Praetorius, Purcell, and Vivaldi.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 5.00PM

Christmas Pops Concert

Q: What do Benjamin Britten and Old St. Nick have in common? We invite you to find the answer at St. Mark's journey to the lighter side of the season!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 5.00PM

Organ Plus Concert: Samuel Gaskin and Friends

Join Jacquelyn Matava (mezzo-soprano), Joshua Bryant (tenor saxophone), Alison Fletcher (baroque violin), and Samuel Gaskin (continuo and Austin/Kegg organs) for a lyrical and lively afternoon of music with friends including works by Louis Vierne and Heinrich Biber.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

4.30pm - Pre-Evensong Recital: Dr. Carolyn True

5.00pm - Choral Evensong

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

4.30pm - Pre-Evensong Recital: Graham Schultz

5.00pm - Choral Evensong

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 AT 7.30PM

Alamo Baroque presents: Ars Lyrica Baroque Concert

From The Musical Offering to Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 and "Ich habe genug", delight in the sounds and spirit of a master shared in the sacred space of historic St. Mark's.

SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 5.00PM

Spring Concert

The St. Mark's Choir and St. Cecilia Guild present praises of the season with the music of Gerald Finzi, John Rutter, and William Walton. Highlights include *Te Deum - Collegium Regale* by Herbert Howells, *God is gone up and Eclogue for Piano and Strings* by Gerald Finzi, and *Grand Choeur Dialogue for brass and organ* by Eugène Gigout.

SUNDAY, MAY 17 AT 5.00PM

Choral Evensong with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Montessori School

The Choristers of St. Mark's will once again join voices with St. Paul's Junior Choristers and the St. Cecilia Choristers of St. Paul's Episcopal Montessori School in a fitting end to their season-long partnership.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

3.45pm Prelude and Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel

7.45pm Prelude Holy Eucharist with St. Mark's Choir

10.00pm Prelude and Holy Eucharist with St. Mark's Choir and incense

Christmas Day

December 25

One Combined Holy Eucharist at 10.00am

Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 29

One Combined Holy Eucharist at 10.00am



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING EPIPHANY BABY SHOWER

Sunday, January 5

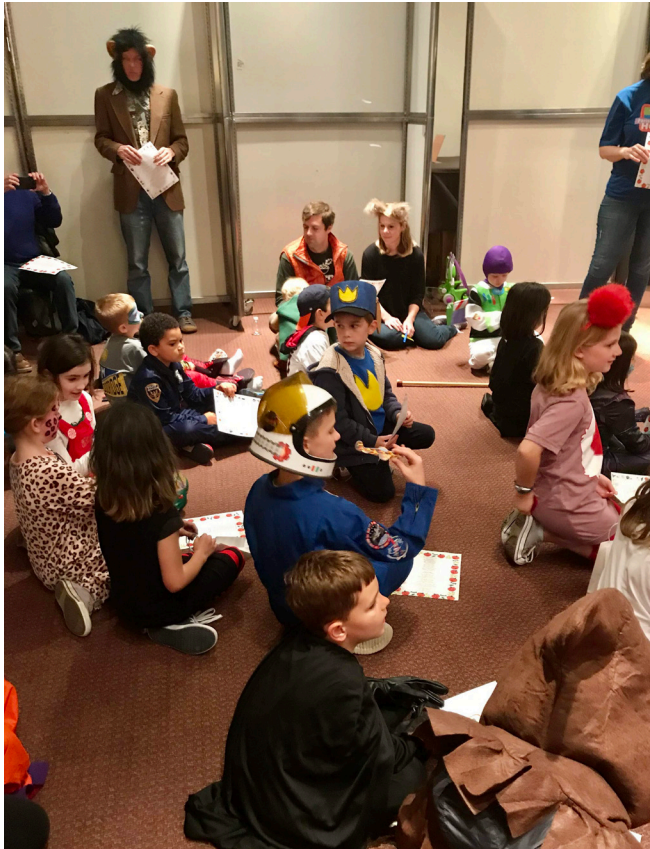
10.10am

You are invited to take part in the annual Epiphany Baby Shower, hosted by the St. Mark's Chapter of the Order of The Daughters of the King on Sunday, January 5 at 10.10am in The Radius.

In the tradition of the Magi, bring a bagged or wrapped gift to celebrate. All baby and toddler gifts

will be donated to Good Samaritan Community Services. Items requested: diapers (sizes 3 and higher), pull-ups, infant and toddler clothing (Newborn-5T), baby wipes, blankets, baby toiletries, and sleeper/PJ's. Please leave price tags attached or include receipt for accounting purposes. Cash donations for formula are also welcome.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS & COSTUMES



STEWARDSHIP

We are off to a good start with pledges for 2020. Thank you to all who have submitted their pledges. We have received 201 pledges; and 65% of them are increases over last year. As we ready ourselves for Advent, please take the time to make your pledge for the coming year.

Our commitments to St Mark's and each other as a community determine how we live into our Core Vocation, *Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life*. Go online (www.stmarks-sa.org), mail in your pledge card, or give us a call. However you like to engage, we're depending on your generosity.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT

We gathered in the Church on November 3 at 10.10am for our Annual Parish Meeting. Our newest slate of Vestry members was approved by consent - David Byrd, George Spencer, Veda White, Laura Wickham, and Lucy Wilson. We were able to hear reports from Paul Allen (outgoing Senior Warden), Joey Oliver (outgoing Treasurer), Brooks Englehardt (Investment Committee Chair), The Rev. Beth Knowlton, and The Rev. Ann Benton Fraser. If you were not able to make the meeting or would like to hear the reports again, visit our website (www.stmarks-sa.org) and search "Annual Parish Meeting" in the search bar. There, you will be able to listen to each of the reports.



As Beth mentioned at the beginning of this issue, we have much to be grateful for! Thank you to the outgoing Vestry class – Gary Chambers, Anne Connor, Kate Crone, Mike Duffey, and Kelly Ranson for serving on the Vestry. Thank you to Paul Allen for serving as the Senior Warden. A special thank you goes to Joey Oliver (pictured above) for serving as the Treasurer for the past three years.

FINANCIALS

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 10/31/19

83.33% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,374,299	\$1,471,818
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$139,459	\$222,500
Seasonal Giving	\$12,799	\$10,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$463,149	\$466,111
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$244,793	\$241,842
Total Revenue	\$2,234,499	\$2,412,270
Total Expenses	\$2,228,672	\$2,333,619
Over/(Under)	\$5,827	\$78,651

\$1,664,230 in 2019 Pledges • 308 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,403 • Median Pledge is \$2,789

CLERGY AT ST. MARK'S

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

Making a Gift of Their Service: The Rev. Michael Chalk, Rector Emeritus; 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



IN REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING (THRU NOVEMBER 13, 2019)

MEMORIALS

Carolyn DeWalt by Adrienne and Michael Vaughn

Ellen Maverick Dickson by Lukin Gilliland, Jr., Ruth Oliver,
Camilla Parker, Polly and George Spencer

Agnes Harwood by S.E. Maclin, Camilla Parker, Elsie Steg, Jill and
George Vassar, Elizabeth and Cliff Waller

Lise Smith by Cameron McDougell

Evaristo and Victoria Vasquez by Adelina Rodriguez

SPECIAL GIFTS

To the clergy discretionary fund **in thanksgiving for my mother,
Nance Haney and my sister, Elizabeth Raney** by Alice Haney

To the memorial fund **in honor of their grandfather, Robert
Raney DDS** by Margaret and Miller Raney

To the memorial fund **in honor of Ginny Halter on her birthday**
by George and Polly Spencer

THE RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ellen Maverick Dickson by Kathleen and William Wassberg

PHOTO CREDITS

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