



The Messenger

from St. Mark's

October/November 2018

Vestry Slate

Stewardship

Children's Ministry Update

Reflecting Christ, Enacting Our Faith

“Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

- John 8:12

Already we have had a busy start to the program year. We have welcomed our new Organist and Choirmaster, Jon Johnson, and bid The Rev. Carol Morehead Godspeed as she begins a new season of ministry in Medford, Massachusetts. The coming months will find us seeking a new priest to continue our outreach and pastoral care efforts. We will bid Bob Brewer goodbye as he joins Joe Causby in North Carolina. We will welcome a new Assistant Organist and Choirmaster in the coming weeks, Samuel Gaskin. I give thanks for the important continuity and care Bob has given us during the summer and through Founders Day.



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

While the faces have been changing, the constancy of this community stays the same. As devoted followers of Jesus Christ, we know how to celebrate the particularity of each person's gifts, while trusting in the overall movement of the Holy Spirit. October and November are months when we turn to themes of stewardship and reflect back while preparing for the future. We will do that in some specific ways in the coming months.

Firstly, we will celebrate our 160th anniversary on Founders Day with a combined 10.00am worship service and reception on October 14. We will welcome our Mayor, Ron Nirenberg, and install The Rev. Mike Chalk as our Rector Emeritus. We will celebrate the many contributions St. Mark's has made to our community as we look towards what God is now calling forth from us. We will hear about the impact of those who have come before us as well as the invitation to endow our future. A special coloring book of our stained-glass windows is being prepared for the celebration, and we will have an ingathering of children's books for our partnership with Crockett Elementary School.

Secondly, we will introduce our new stewardship theme for the next two years. Our co-chairs, David and Amanda Byrd, John and Mary McClung, and Lillian Morris will help us discern what it means for us to reflect Christ and enact our faith as individuals and as a community. That will entail our annual stewardship campaign, but also include a series of small gathering to reflect with one another about what that means for St. Mark's in the coming year. Along with the annual stewardship efforts, we have a special opportunity to retire the remaining debt from our recent renovations, which you will receive a letter about. As I am in conversations about giving, I am reminded over and over again that giving comes from the same place of generosity, which is a God given desire to participate. Some may be more motivated by the ministry that can happen if we eliminate debt, others may feel more drawn to endow the future, while others may see their annual contributions as the most important way to participate. To all of that, we say, "Yes!" and "Thank you!" Our ministry can only continue to grow with the faithful participation of all who are in our community; and each gift, whatever the size, matters.

Thirdly, in November we will have our first slate of Vestry candidates that have been vetted through our new nominating process announced at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. The five nominees will be offered for affirmation on November 4. Please take the time to read the backgrounds of these wonderful members of our community that have agreed to serve in this way. I am also excited for you to come to the Annual Parish Meeting and hear more about our accomplishments of the past year and hopes for the future. And yes, we will have pies to taste!

As always, I am grateful beyond measure for this calling among you. I see you reflecting the presence of Christ each day and enacting your faith in ways that give glory to God.

Peace,

Beth +

Adult Formation

The Rector's Forum 2018-2019 - Christian Identity In An Increasingly Polarized World

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton, The Rev. Mary Earle, The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, and The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson
10.10am in Gish Hall, 3rd Floor

"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

As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that modeling our lives through our baptismal promises is a primary way we are formed as Christians. With so much division and polarization in our world, there can be a tendency to step away from practices that form us. Instead we try to label and judge our identity in ways that do not allow for individual discernment and the particular expression each of us is called to offer to the world. This year we will explore in depth the promises we make and reaffirm in our baptismal covenant. The hope is that further reflection on these promises gives us a clearer understanding of who we are as Christians and why it makes a difference to us and our world. We will explore the history, theology, practices, and habits that help us to live a life that embodies an *"inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, and a spirit to know and love God, and receive the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works"* (adapted from the service of Holy Baptism, BCP p. 308).

Part I: How do we continue in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

September 23 - October 7

Part II: How do we persevere in resisting evil, and whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

October 21, 28, November 11, 18

Adult Track 2: Wrestling with God

James Dennis, OP

Class meets: October 21, 28, November 11, 18

10.10am in Bethlehem Chapel

This four-week class will use Ron Rolheiser's book *Wrestling with God* as a framework to look at and explore the fears and doubts that lead us away from knowing who Jesus is and who we are in Christ. The book *"offers a steady and inspiring voice to help us avow and understand our faith in a world where nothing seems solid or permanent. Drawing from his own life experience, as well as a storehouse of literary, psychological, and theological insights, he examines the fears and doubts that challenge us."* The class will explore key themes from the book.

Children and Youth Formation

Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 10.10am on the 2nd Floor

Ages Pre-K - 5th Grade

Sunday School at St. Mark's is a special time for the children to gather together with those in their age group and dig deeper into the stories of the people of God. Each class is led by two teams of two teachers, and includes time for listening to the story, enjoying crafts and games, sharing a snack together, and learning how to use the lessons in their everyday lives. This year we will be using *Hearts Alive*, a new and engaging curriculum for children of all ages.

Youth Sunday Formation

Sundays at 10.10am in the Youth Suite, 3rd Floor

6-12th grade

Weaving God's Promises is a three-year Christian education curriculum developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. All 6th-12th graders will come together every Sunday morning during the formation hour in the Youth Suite. We will utilize activities, prayer, and fellowship to learn how God's promises of salvation are inextricably woven into our lives.

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Vestry Discernment Committee

At the November Annual Parish Meeting we will gather to affirm the Vestry Slate for the class of 2021. This is a change from the historical voting process. Ahead of last year's Annual Parish Meeting, your Vestry reviewed and approved the shift from a ballot election to a slate affirmation, allowing us to identify members with the skills and expertise needed and a healthy distribution of newer and long-time members. The Vestry Discernment Committee, a group selected by the co-chairs to represent all demographics of the parish, has completed the selection process for the first time.

Here's a recap of how the process was conducted. The committee was made up of 15 members, including co-chairs. This group gathered four times over the span of two months. They spent time discussing the needs of our parish today, developing a list of characteristics that slate members should possess, creating a list of possible candidates, listening to each other describe the qualities of the candidates proposed, and finally they refined a condensed list of members that the co-chairs spoke with about considering the calling to serve on the Vestry. The responses of those called to stand for the next Vestry class confirmed for us that the time was right to transition to this new approach.

The co-chairs including Robert Pollom, Craig Stokes, and myself, were pleased with how careful, considerate, and engaged the entire committee was with this important work. The final product that they produced was a slate that was met with enthusiastic clergy approval. The steps of the process were thoughtful and thus yielded a Vestry Slate that is visionary, perceptive, and welcoming. At St. Mark's, we are blessed with a bounty of riches. This was apparent as the committee interacted as a group, and finally it was exemplified in the list that was created. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to the co-chairs for further discussion.



Paul Allen, Senior Warden

Vestry Slate - Class of 2021

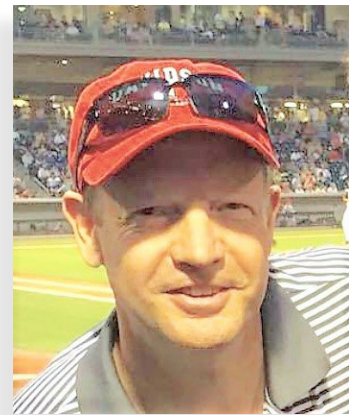
Please take some time to read about each of the members of the Vestry Slate (in alphabetical order below). They are all well-qualified, having been recommended by the Vestry Discernment Committee. To introduce the candidates to you, they were asked to reflect on the following:

- 1) Why do you feel called to serve on the Vestry of St. Mark's?
- 2) Please describe your participation at St. Mark's and/or in the community, indicating experiences that you think will be helpful for the Vestry.
- 3) St. Mark's Core Vocation is Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life: Feeding the hungry with real food; Feeding those who are hungry for knowledge and meaning; Feeding those who are hungry for beauty and creativity. How do you envision the Vestry working in support of this vocation?
- 4) When did you join St. Mark's and what continues to draw you to this community?

Brooks Englehardt

1) I am a lifelong Episcopalian, was baptized at the National Cathedral, and been a member of Episcopal parishes in Washington D.C., North Carolina, New York, and now, Texas. Having been a part of many great teams, I understand the importance of diversity of thought in any conversation. I believe I bring a different perspective to the Vestry. I'm enormously excited about the future of our parish and confident I can help turn that vision into reality.

2) I was asked by, then Treasurer, Len Briley to lead the St. Mark's Investment Committee in 2013. Len tasked me with developing an operating rhythm and governance structure for the committee and to expand its member base. That experience provided an up-close view into St. Mark's membership and leadership. John McClung asked me to join the Finance Committee a number of years later providing even greater insight into the parish workings. I also had an opportunity to participate in the same sex marriage discernment discussions. This was an invaluable complement to my previous experience. This allowed me to participate in engaging parish-wide discernment. In 2017, I was invited to join the McNay Museum's Board of Trustees. This experience has been another great proving ground. It is an opportunity to connect to the San Antonio community and accelerate the mission of a local cultural institution.



Brooks Englehardt (cont.)

3) The St Mark's community is blessed with a clear vision and sense of purpose. We are an incredibly welcoming, financially sound, dynamic, urban parish, graced with strong leadership and beautiful facilities. The Vestry has an opportunity to lead parish growth, and all the pieces are in place to expand our impact for the benefit of San Antonio. **4)** We moved to San Antonio from New York City in 2010 and visited three parishes before calling St. Mark's home in 2011. What excited us initially and continues to impress is the people. We are such a welcoming community; the leadership, Christian formation programming, facilities and being at the core of a dynamic, urban setting.

Emily Foster



1) I am a lifelong member of St. Mark's and am excited about the opportunity to help build upon our great success. I have loved being involved in various facets and as now is an especially opportune time in my life, I have prayerfully considered and feel fully capable to assist in helping realize the full potential of St. Mark's. **2)** I have enjoyed participating in many church activities- my greatest joy being Children's Chapel. As a Children's Choir mother, I also have a great love of the music at the church. My community involvement spans from serving for five years on the Board of a local women's club until I served my final year as the Chair, to school fundraising and organizing for my daughter's school, to participating and fundraising for healthcare causes, such as PanCan. I've learned valuable lessons that I know will prove helpful and effective on the Vestry. **3)** I envision a continual assessment of our strengths in the areas we are called to support. A review of the landscape and collaboration in our ideas and best practices will ensure we keep our Core Vocation at the forefront of what we do. **4)** I grew up in the church and have always remained a member. It is a natural home for me and I

am thus attracted to the comfort of home, the diverse welcoming membership, the music, the sheer beauty of the church and downtown landscape, and the services we offer.

Marisa Peterson

1) This has been an interesting experience - deliberating whether to accept the invitation to serve on Vestry. Initially, I was unsure I had anything to offer, but truly, I was also really excited. I was received in late April and received the invitation to join the Vestry a few weeks later. This is a way to be part of the life of the church, a way to challenge myself to try something new, and an opportunity to recognize the gifts I have to share. **2)** Within the church, I support our Children's Ministry in Children's Chapel and VBS. I participated in the Lenten Quiet Day and also attended the Brene Brown Daring Way Retreat. I really appreciate the Mind the Gap Friday evening Symposium gatherings. This past spring, I was part of the Adult Confirmation Class. Outside of church, I worked for ten years as an elementary teacher in both public and private school settings, teaching here as well as in Philadelphia. These days, I'm on the clock at home as Mom, gardening, and enjoy giving of my time at my children's schools. What I do offer to the Vestry is a desire to serve, to meet new people, and to speak up on those topics or ideas about which I feel passionate. **3)** The wonderful programming at St. Mark's runs so smoothly that it's easy to take for granted all that's involved behind the scenes. In my mind, the Vestry is involved in ensuring that our programming continues to operate smoothly. Beyond that, I believe the Vestry helps support our initiatives through our presence at church, in our openness to meeting new people, and in our spreading the word about the many ways one might participate in our mission. **4)** My husband, Tim, and I began attending St. Mark's in the fall of 2015. So many aspects of the St. Mark's experience welcomes and excites me. Each Sunday, I can count on coming away with some experience that has fed me - meeting someone with whom I've never spoken, being surrounded by joyful children in Children's Chapel, a moving piece of music during the offering, or a well-crafted sermon that leaves me laughing, breathing deeply, or wiping away tears. I am fed by so many aspects of this community and count it an honor to have received the invitation to join the Vestry.



Vestry Slate - Class of 2021

Trey Thompson



1) It seems to me that the Vestry of St. Mark's acts in the background to maintain and support the lay and ordained ministers of the parish. I would like to be a part of this ministry and the many different ministries of St. Marks. **2)** I have enjoyed participating in a variety of enjoyable service and community building activities including St. Marks Gryphons Cycling Club, trips to help out St. Peter's in Rockport, Ushers, Dinners for 8, etc. I have been involved in more formal programs such as Commission on Ministry (currently chair) and Community of Hope (part-time assistant). **3)** St. Mark's Core Vocation is wonderfully broad, ambitious, and inspires diverse ministries that no single person could track. As I understand it, the Vestry acts to provide a two-way bridge between the clergy and the rest of the community of St. Mark's. Vestry members need to first be listeners so that the members of this growing congregation can be more fully heard. Vestry members need to engage in the sacred activities that St. Mark's community provides to feed the community of San Antonio. Vestry members need to engage in a relationship with the ordained and lay leaders of the

parish so that our ministries are healthy and connected to the people of God's church. **4)** I started attending St. Mark's around the time we moved to San Antonio in 2002. I am drawn by the people, the music, the preaching, and the vibrant ministries. I can't say when it happened, but I gradually came to feel like I belonged. I looked around one day and realized that it takes me a lot of time to get out of church now because there are so many people I want to see and hear from. St. Mark's now occupies an important place in my mind even when I am not physically present. St. Mark's provides a spiritual grounding for my life that is very important and valuable.

Chris Villa

1) Since marrying Dell at St. Mark's in 2008, I have felt incredibly enriched by and drawn to the St. Mark's mission, people, and culture. To help shape and evolve this special institution is an exciting calling. **2)** Over the past ten years, I've been involved in a variety of activities at St. Mark's, which have both deepened my commitment to the Church and provided valuable context for understanding where we've been and where we need to go. This, coupled with my corporate experience, will enable me to serve effectively on the Vestry. **3)** I believe the Vestry's role is to ensure our Core Vocation is "operationalized" in the most effective and efficient manner possible (please excuse the corporate speak!). This means, among other things, deploying resources through thoughtful and well managed programs that feed the community and the future of St. Mark's. **4)** Dell and I joined St. Mark's in 2008, and I could easily list 50 reasons that continue to draw us to this special community, but I'll share just three: intellectually curious approach to faith, inclusive culture, truth seeking clergy and parishioners.



Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, November 4

Between services, we will hold our Annual Parish Meeting during which you will hear from the Rector and lay leaders about our accomplishments as a parish, our challenges, and our plans for the future. Come hear about how we, as a community, use our resources for the well-being of this congregation, our neighbors, and our city. At the last Parish Meeting we shared our plans to move to a slate of Vestry candidates to be presented to the parish for election. An expanded Vestry Discernment Committee has done the good work of assembling a five-member class of 2021 for your approval.

A printed St. Mark's Annual Report will also be distributed during the parish meeting containing more detail on the financial and programmatic health of our community.

Children's Ministry Update

The second floor is alive and buzzing again as our program year is now officially underway! Each classroom has received a few fun updates (reading/prayer tents, cushy pillows, stuffed "friends" to cuddle with) in hopes that our children will feel at home and loved while they're at St. Mark's. This year we are using the curriculum *Hearts Alive*, which is written by a team of Episcopal priests and educators. As described in an online overview, "*Hearts Alive* supports and elevates liturgical traditions and the church calendar while using clear, contemporary learning techniques to present the Word of God." We are excited and hopeful that our children will continue to learn and grow in their knowledge and love of God this year while enjoying Sunday School each week. A special THANK YOU goes out to our 13 (!) volunteers who have committed to teach Sunday School this year. We are so grateful!



Abby Richards

With the beginning of the program year comes the beginning of a new mid-week offering for children. Each Wednesday, from 5.30-7.30pm, we will meet on the second floor for Study Hall and activities. This is a great opportunity for our school aged kids (Kinder through 5th grade students) to have some down time with their friends, while parents can attend Wednesday evening programming. Feel free to contact Abby at arichards@stmarks-sa.org if you have any questions.

Children's Chapel continues to be a favorite time with the kids ages 3yrs-5th grade during the 9.00am worship service. Ever wonder what the children talk about and learn while the adults are in church? Feel free to stop by the second floor on Thursday or Friday and check out the project materials waiting to be assembled, or volunteer to be Abby's Children's Chapel assistant one week - you will not regret it! Though we are still in need of more volunteers in Children's Chapel, I want to say THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers who consistently give of their time to help the children cut out shapes, spell new words, and make sure all googly eyes are stuck where they should be - we couldn't do this without you!

For more information on how you can get involved in Children's Ministry at St. Mark's, contact Abby at arichards@stmarks-sa.org.

Blessing of the Costumes

All children and their families are invited to dress up in their costumes and join us on Wednesday, October 24 for an evening of fun and games! We will start at 5.30pm with a kid-friendly dinner in Tucker Courtyard, followed by a costume parade around St. Mark's starting at 6.00pm. The parade will end in the church where we will enjoy "spooky" organ music and singing. We will then head to Gosnell for games and prizes. We hope to see you all there!



Blessing of the Backpacks



Ministry Fair



Music From St. Mark's

NOVEMBER 4
SUNDAY,
5.00PM

ALL SAINTS' CONCERT: EXPERIENCING THE SAINTS THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The St. Cecilia Guild presents a concert sung by the St. Mark's Choir and chamber orchestra under the direction of Jon Johnson. This program will feature Gabriel Faure's Requiem, Craig Phillip's Song without Words, and other choral masterworks for the feast of All Saints.

NOVEMBER 11
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This service of readings and music marks the anniversary of the United States entering the First World War. We join with the Anglican Communion in remembering those who died in war and conflicts throughout the world, as we conclude the octave of All Saints.
Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.

DECEMBER 9
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

A FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

The choirs of St. Mark's sing a service in celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER 15
SATURDAY,
3.00PM

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Texas Children's Choir will present a concert of Christmas favorites.

FEBRUARY 10
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

ORGAN CONCERT

Jon Johnson, St. Mark's Organist & Choirmaster, performs a concert on our Austin/Kegg Pipe Organ.

MARCH 3
SUNDAY, 4.30PM

PRE-EVENSONG RECITAL

SOLI Chamber Music Ensemble

MARCH 3
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE LAST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sung by the St. Mark's Choir under the direction of Jon Johnson.

APRIL 28
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

FIESTA CONCERT: THE FEAST OF ST. MARK

The St. Cecilia Guild presents Fiesta Concert featuring the St. Mark's Choirs and orchestra. This concert will include John Rutter's *Gloria*, and Flor Peeter's *Toccata Festiva*.

In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru September 18, 2018)

MEMORIALS

Tom Frost by Anne and Robert Tucker

Willis McClung by Clytie Phelps

Amanda Ochse by Brooke and Al Allison, Linda and Thomas Schulze, Virginia McDaniel

Barbara Yu by Tom Duesing, Camilla Parker, Elsie Steg, Lee Yelton

ALTAR GUILD

Allison Duesing by Lee Yelton

HAVEN FOR HOPE

Barbara Yu by Patrice and Joey Oliver

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Barbara Yu by Ann Madison

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

B. Lamoreaux by Nancy and Richard Dugger

ST. CECILIA FUND

Richard Owens by Nancy and Richard Dugger

Barbara Yu by Ann Coiner

BEREAVEMENT FUND

Barbara Yu by Judith Cavender

CARPENTER CLUB

Barbara Yu by Judy and Lee Rux

SPECIAL GIFTS

To St. Mark's **in honor of Martha Steves** by Clytie Phelps

To St. Mark's **in honor of the birth of Georgia Finch Blount** by Jill and George Vassar

Financials

2018 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 08/31/2018

66.67% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,201,461	\$1,232,465
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$199,771	\$168,000
Seasonal Giving	\$12,445	\$10,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$270,082	\$278,213
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$239,013	\$251,665
Total Revenue	\$1,922,772	\$1,940,343
Total Expenses	\$1,728,010	\$1,852,681
Over/(Under)	\$194,762	\$87,662

\$1,670,817 in 2018 Pledges • 303 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,514 • Median Pledge is \$2,875

Clergy at St. Mark's

Parish Clergy: The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton, Rector; The Rev. Matthew Wise, Associate Rector for Liturgy, Adult Formation, and Family Ministry

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)

OCTOBER 3-4
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Sautéed Green Beans
Garlic Bread Sticks
Garden Salad
Cheesecake

OCTOBER 10-11
Chicken and Beef Chalupas
Spanish Rice
Charro Beans
Garden Salad
Lemon Cake

OCTOBER 17-18
Chicken Piccata
Sautéed Broccoli
Rice Pilaf
Garden Salad
Chocolate Pie

OCTOBER 24-25
Hamburger Sliders
Hot Dogs
Tater Tots
Garden Salad
Cup Cakes
Chocolate Pudding "Dirt"

OCTOBER 31 - Closed

NOVEMBER 7-8
Chicken Enchiladas Verdes
Spanish Rice
Charro Beans
Garden Salad
Cake

NOVEMBER 14-15
Turkey
Dressing
Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy
Dinner Rolls
Green Beans
Cranberry Sauce
Pie

NOVEMBER 21-22 CLOSED

NOVEMBER 28-29
King Ranch Chicken
Charro Beans
Tortillas
Garden Salad
Cake

Photos in this Issue

Cover photo: Rachel Dugger

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