

# The Messenger

*from St. Mark's*

April/May 2018

Vacation Bible School

Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon

Member Spotlight

Alamo Baroque Festival



## Entering into the Resurrection

*“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”*

- Mark 16:1-3

I am grateful that Easter season lasts 50 days, long past the clearance sales of candy and plastic eggs. Our joyous proclamation of Alleluia on Easter morning is but the beginning of a much longer journey into the mystery of new life. Part of the transformation to living a new life is the acceptance and letting go of that which is familiar. Like the disciples, we approach the empty tomb wondering who on earth is going to roll away the stone. We are surprised to find that it is already moved, and instead we are asked to enter into the mystery of that which is to come.



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

We experience that transition as part of our own journey and communal life. There is joy and sadness as we let go and say goodbye to that which we hold dear and create space for what the new life might offer. We at times might prefer the concrete nature of trying to roll away a large stone, so that we can commence with our tasks, instead of the harder work of discovering the unexpected.

In the coming months we have a particular opportunity to model this way of being as we bid farewell to our beloved Organist and Choirmaster, Dr. Joe Causby. Joe has had a tremendous impact on our music and community life in the seven years he has faithfully served here. We are all extremely grateful for the many ways he has given so generously of his time and talent. He has positioned us to attract a highly qualified candidate to walk with us in this next season of our ministry.

Dr. Carl Leafstedt and Ms. Anne Schelleng have agreed to co-chair the search committee for a new Organist and Choirmaster. Carl, as many of you know, is a music professor at Trinity University, was on the Rector Search Committee, and served as Senior Warden early in my tenure. He brings a love of the St. Mark's community and a broad view of our Core Vocation. Anne is a member of the choir and works as the Executive Director of the Children's Chorus of San Antonio (CCSA). She loves our community and understands many of our recent collaborative partnerships in the city. She also managed the process of the call of the new Artistic Director of CCSA. The committee will initiate a national search process with the hopes of calling someone in the summer months to ensure a smooth transition. There will be multiple opportunities for our community to share its hopes for this ministry as well.

We look forward to celebrating Joe's time with us in the coming weeks and offer our blessing to him as he returns to his beloved home state of North Carolina. **We will celebrate his time with us at a grand reception, St. Mark's style, on June 3 after the combined 10.00am service.** We will be accepting donations for a farewell purse to thank him for all he has given us. His last Sunday will be June 10th.

It is always hard to say goodbye to someone we love, but this is the nature of the church. We celebrate endings and beginnings as part of our corporate life together. I give thanks for Joe and the many gifts he has brought us. I also trust that our deep connectedness in Christ continues and that new opportunities are on our horizon. If we continue to remember the care that God has for us, we can enter into new life with confidence and joy.

Peace,

Beth +

## Easteride Formation

### The Bible Challenge, Eastertide 2018

Led by: The Rev. Beth Knowlton, The Rev. Carol Morehead, and The Rev. Matt Wise

Class meets: April 8, 15, 22, and May 6 (Not meeting April 29)

How does the bible challenge us? Combining the two tracks of adult formation, this series will confront a different challenging story or section from the bible each week. Why was the narrative included? What might it be saying about God? About us?

Join us for this series as we explore challenging stories and sayings in the Bible. We will use a midrash approach of interpreting these challenging stories and sayings in an effort to understand ourselves and our faith more deeply.

## Vacation Bible School

### Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity

June 18-21

9.00am-12.00pm

All children ages 4 to rising 6th grade are invited to join us for a fun-filled week as we learn all about one of God's faithful followers, Daniel. Each day, the children will become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Babylon! They'll explore the Marketplace, visit Daniel, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as they discover more about Daniel's adventures in Babylon. Along with these exciting experiences, our daily themes will teach the children important and lifelong lessons about how God is always with us:

Day 1: When things change, God is with you.

Day 2: When you need help, God is with you.

Day 3: When you're afraid and lonely, God is with you.

Day 4: When you're thankful, God is with you.

One of the children's favorite parts each year is the Celebration time at the beginning and end of each day. They love to learn the different songs and motions, and then come up to the front to help lead the others! During this time, we also talk about "God Sightings" - ways that we see God at work in our lives. It's a wonderful practice for the children to learn to look for God, both during VBS week and in their regular lives.

We hope you'll make plans to be involved in VBS this year - we would love to have your children and you! We will have a special group led by our nursery staff for our youngest participants, ages 2-4. Volunteer positions are open to anyone Middle School and up! Please consider being a part of this special week.

For more information on volunteering, and to register your child, check the Sign Ups/Reservations page of the website on April 15.



The Messenger, USPS 514-020  
Vol 107, Issue 2, Published bi-monthly

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Article Deadline: 3rd Monday of month  
preceding bi-monthly issue

Postage paid in San Antonio, TX  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St.  
Mark's Episcopal Church  
Rector: The Rev. Beth Knowlton

## Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon

*Voices in the Air*  
*Poems for Listeners*  
Poet Naomi Shihab Nye

Thursday, May 3  
11.30am

We are in for a real treat! This year's speaker for the annual St. Mark's Bookstore Luncheon is truly a San Antonio treasure. And while we can claim Naomi Shihab Nye as our own, she is also well-beloved around the world, and rightly so. Her accolades are many, and she has published more than 30 volumes of poetry. She is an award-winning Palestinian-American Poet, Essayist, and Educator; Lannan Fellow; and Guggenheim Fellow.

I first learned of Naomi's work when she came to speak at my college in West Texas. I knew little of San Antonio and was unfamiliar with her work, but I was enthralled by her reading and her presence. I still remember laughing and crying and feeling inspired by her. Through the years, I've joined the many who are fans of her work, making a point to hear her every chance I have – at the state gathering of English teachers (which I was in a former life!), at the Roundtop Poetry festival, at a gathering sponsored by Seton Cove in Austin – and each time I leave feeling amazed at her wit and generosity, as well as inspired and empowered by her humility and insight.

Be sure to sign up early, and bring your friends. Naomi will share with us from her newest volume, *Voices in the Air - Poems for Listeners*. It promises to be a very special time.

*Submitted by The Rev. Carol Morehead*



## Summer at St. Mark's



Regular weekday programming will conclude on Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17.

We will kick off our summer schedule with the Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, May 20, with services at 7.45am and 10.00am. Following the 10.00am service, join us in Travis Park for delicious lunch options, bounce houses, games for all, and fun and fellowship.

### Summer Service Schedule

**7.45am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I, spoken service**  
**9.00am - Adult Formation (beginning June 10)**  
**10.00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music**

## Member Spotlight - Kay Mijangos

Kay Mijangos is a lifelong educator, Montessori School advocate, dedicated Episcopalian, collaborator extraordinaire, and passionate about serving those most in need. Through her willingness to listen patiently for God's call and her courage to embrace that call when it came, Kay partnered with God and collaborated with others to establish St. Paul's Episcopal Montessori School in San Antonio. She recognized a lifelong dream of building a Montessori School that reflects the beautiful diversity of the kingdom of God.

The seeds of Kay's vocation were sowed early in life when she saw her brother's child, stricken with cerebral palsy, flourishing in a Montessori School. From that moment forward, Kay pursued a career in teaching at Montessori Schools.

But after the 9/11 attacks on the United States, she realized that something was still missing in her life. Kay had not completed what she came to earth to do. So, at the pinnacle of her teaching career, without knowing what God's next call might be, Kay quit her job at a highly successful Montessori School for privileged members of the community.

To help in her discernment about where God might be calling her, Kay joined a weekly spiritual reflection group for clarifying conversation. After several starts and stops of testing new possibilities, it finally dawned on her that God was calling her to give underprivileged children a Montessori School experience. Kay later explained that moment of divine revelation, saying that she had caught a vision of God's fast-moving train and jumped aboard. Before she knew it, doors were miraculously opening in every direction.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church had a newly renovated and underutilized education building they offered to the school. A parishioner at St. Paul's stepped forward and donated \$50,000 to apply to scholarships. Several local foundations heard about her project and sought Kay out to make contributions. A member of St. Mark's choir heard about Kay's new passion and volunteered their grant-making expertise to raise more money for the school. A close friend with skills for organization and motivation volunteered to lead Kay's new board. Another board member convinced her that an Episcopal chapel experience was essential for the young students, no matter what their religious background.

St. Paul's Episcopal Montessori School opened in January 2005 with five students aged three to six and Kay as their only teacher. In 2008 she established a music program and hired a music teacher. By the time she retired in 2013, the school had 99 students mirroring the broad ethnic and economic diversity of San Antonio. Today, the school has 120 students ranging in age from 18 months to 12 years. From the first day until now, over half the students have received financial aid. Some of Kay's first graduates are now receiving scholarships to attend the finest preparatory schools and colleges in the country. Her vision and mission for God's diverse kingdom to be reflected in the students at a Montessori School has been fulfilled.

For these extraordinary accomplishments, Seminary of the Southwest was honored to present Kay Mijangos with the 2017 Durstan R. McDonald Teaching Award in September.

*Submitted by The Rev. Dr. John Lewis*



## Music from St. Mark's

APRIL 13  
FRIDAY, 7.00PM

THE CHOIR OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY LONDON (UK) IN CONCERT  
*Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.*

APRIL 15  
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

MUSIC FOR RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE RECORDERS- Alamo Baroque Festival presents a concert of music performed by consorts of Renaissance and Baroque recorders. This concert will include music of the 13th-17th centuries and will be played by ensembles of four, five, and ten parts using over 35 recorders.

APRIL 29  
SUNDAY, 7.00PM

FIESTA CONCERT AND OFFICIAL <sup>300</sup> EVENT  
The Choirs of St. Mark's and Temple Beth-El join with YOSA in presenting Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*. This concert will take place at Temple Beth-El, located at 211 Belknap 78212. *Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.*

JUNE 11  
MONDAY, 9.30AM

OPENING EUCHARIST OF THE AAM CONFERENCE — Our Treble Choir and other RSCM choir members from Texas sing this service of Holy Eucharist. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Conference Preacher

JUNE 11  
MONDAY 8.00PM

CONCERT BY NEW YORK POLYPHONY CLASSICAL VOCAL QUARTET  
<http://www.newyorkpolyphony.com/>

JUNE 13  
WEDNESDAY, 5.00PM

CHORAL EVENSONG  
The Choirs of St. Mark's sing music of Parry, Dyson, and Smith.

## Organist and Choirmaster

As Beth mentioned in her reflection, we are saying farewell to Dr. Joe Causby, our beloved Organist and Choirmaster. St. Mark's has been very blessed to have Joe for the last seven years. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 3 after the 10.00am service when we will celebrate Joe and his time at St. Mark's. His last Sunday will be June 10.

The search committee invites you to attend one of the Listening Sessions listed below

April 5 - Adult Choir only, 8pm

April 11 - Children, Youth, and their parents, 5pm

April 15 - Parish-wide, 11.15am and 12.30pm in Gish Hall

These sessions are a chance for the committee to hear what you hope for and value most in the next Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mark's. The desire is to have someone in place by the fall.

Thanks to all involved for their help and input during this time of transition. The future is very bright!



## Alamo Baroque Festival

As I sat down to begin this reflection on my wonderful time at the first Alamo Baroque Festival (ABF), I was stranded in my own village, 20 degrees and snowed in. It was a far cry from San Antonio and the reception I received from your whole community: the warm welcome and continued hospitality from St Mark's, the generosity of Dr Richard Butler and other supporters, the clergy and staff, enthusiastic concert-goers, the amazing Joe Causby, the outstanding choir, the fabulous musicians from the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, and other members of the Faculty, I miss you!

When Joe collected me from the airport, we had only met face to face once before, but from our work behind the scenes to prepare for ABF, we knew we were musically compatible and suspected that our friendship would grow. As we chatted we realized that we had been right - we already had so much in common that the week was going to be a joy from start to finish. And it was exactly that.

Music is without doubt a language that transcends over barriers, even the specialist music like that of the 18th century that we were featuring. The whole week was one of collaboration and sharing, and the music-making took place in so many different places, forms, and venues that it was inspirational for the performers, audiences, and participants.

I don't have to look at my diary to remember in detail many aspects of the week. We discussed our own experiences of music-making during a panel discussion at Trinity University hosted by TPR's Nathan Cone. I especially loved hearing and meeting high-school children who were lucky enough to be playing a musical instrument during the masterclasses. The vocal Faculty also heard some wonderful singers perform challenging repertoire and helped them make tremendous strides in their performing techniques.

Our trip to Crockett Elementary was a revelation to me. The standard of care, of teaching, and the respect I saw amongst the students was inspiring. As ever, the power of live music, of any genre, to lift the spirits and take us into another way of experiencing the world, was evident. Thank

you, St Mark's, for this partnership to help all these children experience some things in life that others may take for granted. And it was an unforgettable moment of hilarity when we were all able to vote on how weird we thought Robin Tyson's counter-tenor voice was!

We are used to old things in England, I live close to Stonehenge and that's really old. But the special heritage of the Alamo in San Antonio made performing, literally outside, very special to me. And I have to say thank you to the wonderful stranger who rescued my music that had blown onto the floor and became an instant personal music stand. She and I developed a way of communicating when I needed her to turn a page without needing to speak or being able to read music.

The performance by members of the Faculty on Thursday evening was a joyous exploration of music across time and place - from France to Germany, Spain and England, and from the early days of the Baroque to its finest glories in the mid-18th century. There was quite a build up to this, snatched moments to rehearse outside all the other public engagements, and we all felt nicely under pressure as we walked into the church but that soon melted away with the warmth of the audience. Thank you to St Mark's itself, another star of the show, for being one of the best acoustics I have ever known.

I'm now thinking back wishing it could happen all over again. Remembering the final concert, two of my favorite composers,

Purcell and Handel, bringing performers together from many countries and many different backgrounds — some experienced, others less so, but with a real commitment to the concert, to the music, and to the audience.

Thank you so much for inviting me and for sharing so much with your community.

With fondest good wishes,

Maggie

*Maggie Faultless was the Principal Artist in Residence of the Alamo Baroque Festival in January.*



Alamo Baroque Festival



Alamo Baroque Festival



## Vestry Discernment Committee

Senior Warden Paul Allen along with Robert Pollom and Craig Stokes are pleased to announce that the following people have agreed to serve as additional members of the Discernment Committee to recommend a slate of Vestry candidates for the class of 2021 that will be presented at the Parish Meeting in November:

Beverly Bryars	Patrice Oliver
David Byrd	Anne Rochelle
Drew Cauthorn	Bill Smith
Penny Compton	George Spencer
Gordon Dunkley	Fran Torres-Lopez
Bill Fisher	Lisa Uhl

The Discernment Committee will convene in mid-April. Once the Committee starts to work, please feel free to suggest to Committee members the names of potential Vestry slate candidates along with your reasoning. Committee members are ineligible for Vestry nomination. Paul, Robert, and Craig thank all who expressed interest in the process of selecting future leaders of the Parish.

## In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru March 15, 2018)

### MEMORIALS

**Faith Campbell** by Polly and George Spencer

**Selma Satel** by Cary and Walter Bain, Donald Beeler, Louise and Michael Beldon, Eleanor Komet, Eugenia Bertetti, Robert Buchanan, Charles Casseb, Elizabeth and Joseph Casseb, Elliott Cohen, Lynn Crystal, Pat and Tom Frost, Susie Howard, Myrna and David Langford, Dr. and Mrs. Joe McFarlane, Diana Morehouse, Mr. and Mrs. John

Oppenheimer, Camilla Parker, The Phoenix Charitable Fund  
**Patsy Steves** by Ann Tobin and Josephine Tobin Cothren, Dorothea Oppenheimer, Polly and George Spencer, Lucille and Jim Travis

### ST. CECILIA

**Beverly Hollje** by Susan and Russell Thompson

**Patsy Steves** by Ann Coiner

**Victoria and Evaristo Vasquez** by Adelina Rodriguez, Dina Rodriguez

### TUCKER COURTYARD

**Selma Satel** by Anne and Robert Tucker

**Patsy Steves** by Anne and Robert Tucker

### OUTREACH

**Tara Baciueri** by Cynthia Chi

**Faith Campbell** by Judith Stanton

### STREET FUND

**Billie Street Jeffers** by Virginia Street Koehl

### SPECIAL GIFTS

A gift to St. Mark's **in honor of Paul Allen** by the Steves Foundation

A gift to the St. Cecilia Guild **in thanksgiving for Kathy Kelly and the St. Paul's/ St. Mark's Choristers**

A gift to the Altar Guild **in honor of Norma & Raymond Baird on their 54th wedding anniversary**

## 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. Dr. Jane Patterson, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop

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

## Tax Law Changes — Giving Impact

We've all heard about various aspects of the new tax law changes. For many, the higher standard deduction is a welcome simplification. For some, the new tax brackets could result in lower taxes. For all, the status of charitable contributions is a question to be answered on a case-by-case basis. For those who would like to preserve the tax deductibility of charitable contributions and will not have enough deductions to exceed the new standard deduction, setting up a cost-efficient donor advised fund could be very useful.

Multiple years worth of gifts can be deposited in a single year to allow you to itemize in a particular year. Often, it's advantageous to do this with appreciated assets. Then distributions from the fund can be scheduled over a desired number of years. This allows you to continue to support the church and other favorite non-profits with annual gifts, limiting volatility in the revenue flow that is critical to sustain operations. The tax benefit to you comes in the year you fund the donor advised fund.



Dina Aboul Saad

If you'd like to learn more about this vehicle, contact Dina Aboul Saad at 210-226-2426 or talk with your financial advisor.

## Thank Yous and Pledge Update



Joey Oliver  
Treasurer

We wish to extend our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to Jim Wilson and Len Briley who have so faithfully served on the St. Mark's Finance Committee for several years (many years beyond a three-year term). We finally allowed them to roll off the committee. Jim and Len served you well as good stewards of the church's financial business. Their contribution and dedication meant a lot to the clergy and staff of St. Mark's, as well as the other volunteers who had the pleasure to work with them. The next time you see Jim and Len, please tell them thank you.

We publish a financial summary in each issue of The Messenger, but if you have questions, please don't hesitate to email [finance@stmarks-sa.org](mailto:finance@stmarks-sa.org).

**296 Pledges/\$1,646,097**

**To reach goal: \$67,903**

**Make your pledge at [stmarks-sa.org/give](http://stmarks-sa.org/give), or by calling Dina Aboul Saad or Priscilla Briones at 210-226-2426.**

## Financials

### 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 02/28/2018

16.67% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$524,476	\$494,893
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$65,187	\$42,000
Seasonal Giving	\$0	\$0
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$65,158	\$69,553
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$111,039	\$125,724
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$765,860</b>	<b>\$732,270</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$432,512</b>	<b>\$478,102</b>
<b>Over/(Under)</b>	<b>\$333,349</b>	<b>\$254,168</b>

\$1,646,097 in 2018 Pledges • 296 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,561 • Median Pledge is \$2,896



**Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm**

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

APRIL 4-5  
Chicken Enchiladas  
Charro Beans  
Spanish Rice  
Garden Salad  
Brownies

APRIL 11-12  
Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce  
Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables  
Garden Salad  
Garlic Breadsticks  
Italian Cream Cake

APRIL 18-19  
King Ranch Chicken  
Charro Beans  
Chips & Salsa  
Garden Salad  
Tres Leches Cake

APRIL 25 - CLOSED  
APRIL 26  
Traditional Lasagna  
Sautéed Green Beans  
Garlic Breadsticks  
Garden Salad  
Chocolate Cake

MAY 2-3  
Chicken Tetrazzini  
Sautéed Broccoli  
Garden Salad  
Dinner Rolls  
Cheesecake

MAY 9-10  
Barbecue Brisket  
Baked Potato Casserole  
Green Beans  
Yeast Rolls  
Garden Salad  
Blueberry Cobbler

MAY 16-17  
Baked Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes  
Corn  
Yeast Rolls  
Garden Salad  
Cake

Cafe Kairos will resume in the fall.

**Photos in this Issue**

Cover photo: Eric Nelson  
Photos in this issue provided by: Eric Nelson, Seminary of the Southwest