



THE MESSENGER

from St. Mark's

October/November 2021

Gratitude As Spiritual Practice

*"Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest."
~Hymn 135 v. 1 The Hymnal 1982*

I've been thinking about gratitude a lot these days. I'm grateful for the progress we are making on reconstruction. I'm grateful for the steadfast generosity and support of this community these past two years. I'm grateful for the return of some of our regular service and event rhythms-while still anticipating a fuller return in the future.

While the words of this hymn are usually only sung during Epiphany, it is appropriate to the fall as we enter a full season. I am aware and grateful for the many manifestations of God's presence we see day after day when we take the time to pay attention. There are many of those opportunities in the coming weeks here at the parish. We are successfully navigating hybrid options for many adult formation opportunities. We are able to regularly stream our worship services and will be able to add our upcoming St. Cecilia music events this year. So if you can attend in person, wonderful. If not, this will still be something you can actively participate in.

We have three new Sacred Ground circles commencing their work this fall. I'm grateful there are so many in our community willing to engage in challenging and faithful conversations, especially in the area of race.

Learning from the success last year of our drive through pet blessing, we are again offering that for your animals if that is preferred, or you can come to the outdoor service. All of this shows me God's grace is being manifest in widening circles as we continue to respond in faith.

We are also blessed and I am grateful for the ongoing willingness of those in our community who are

offering themselves as Vestry members. Included within this issue are extensive biographies of those who have been carefully selected by our vestry discernment committee made up of Paul Allen, Bennett Allison, Beverly Bryars, Brooks Englehardt, Ryan Holt, Ann Leafstedt, Patrice Oliver, Marissa Peterson, Trey Thompson, and Brian Zook.



I continue to be grateful to these servants who help ensure we have the necessary leadership in place during these times. Our parish meeting will be held Sunday, October 31, at the 10.10am hour in the church. It will be an important time to hear updates and plans for the coming year. Again, you can come in person, or watch online.

We have plans for another offering this fall for our community to reflect on generosity and the role of community, so be on the lookout for delivery to your doorstep October 21-24!

We will celebrate the Feast of All Saints' Sunday, November 7, and during the morning service read the names of those we lost this past year, baptize new members, then have our annual pledge card ingathering. There is a beautiful recital that evening as well to provide a space for beauty and reflection.

There is so much to be grateful for here at St. Mark's. I hope you will take a moment and think of when you've seen God manifest in your own life. The more we look, the more we notice. And the more we find ourselves rooted in gratitude and love.

Peace,

Beth +

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We are pleased to introduce the following slate of six, well-qualified Vestry members (in alphabetical order) who come by recommendation of the Vestry Discernment Committee. Please take a moment to learn about each candidate from their answers to the following questions:

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 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?

LINDA ADDINGTON

1 I had been thinking and praying about how I could be of more help at St. Mark's. I received a call asking if I would be willing to serve on the Vestry.



2 I graduated from the Education for Ministry program and have commenced my 5th year of co-mentoring an EfM group at St. Mark's. I participated for many years in a weekly reflection group formed by the Rev. Dr. John Lewis, during which we reflected on our lives through the lens of scripture. Rev. Beth Knowlton's weekly Rector's Lectionary Bible Study is a steady opportunity for study and theological reflection in community. I've participated as both an attendee and a team member at Cursillo. I've been blessed by many years of Spiritual Direction. I'm listing some experiences that specifically teach and nurture theological reflection, as viewing our individual and communal lives through the lens of faith is a powerful tool in accomplishing the work of God's Kingdom. Another small thing (that takes a lot of words): some years I sing a song at the Shrove Tuesday talent show. I don't have an outstanding voice, nor am I a natural entertainer. I sing because community is richer and more fun when everyone participates as fully as they are able. Also, my grandchildren are in the audience. I want them to see that when you have something to contribute, you stand up and let your voice be heard.

3 Utilizing the combined gifts of many individuals, prayer, careful reflection, and the power of the

Holy Spirit, the St. Mark's Vestry would consider each decision in relation to our Core Vocation and discern whether each choice would or would not keep St. Mark's on the path toward these goals.

4 Doug and I joined St. Mark's on June 20, 2005. I was initially attracted to St. Mark's by the outstanding preaching and music, inclusiveness of the congregation, amazing learning opportunities, and a holy energy I sensed in the parish. All those elements have flourished over the years. And each year I fall in love with more dear people. St. Mark's is my home.

DAVID HARRIS

1 God calls us to love one another and serve one another—within our congregation, our community, and across the world. I have always been drawn to service-oriented groups and organizations in the church, the community, and even professionally. It is that same tug I believe is calling me to serve on the Vestry. I hope and pray that working together, the Vestry may be a blessing to others.



2 I have been honored to serve in our church's outreach to Crockett Academy as well as the church's Finance Committee. I presently am serving as a board member of my Homeowners Association, a member and past president of the Alamo Heights Rotary Club, and member and former president at the Texas City Management Association. I would hope the lessons learned over the years in these

cont'd on pg. 4

cont'd from pg. 3

and other groups will allow me to contribute to the Vestry.

3 Our fellow parishioners are active in so many professions and activities across our community, radiating God's love and reflecting St. Mark's Core Vocation in the world. My hope is that the Vestry will continue to listen, pray, and discern the best ways to support our fellow parishioners—individually and collectively—so that we may be a blessing to others in the larger San Antonio community both in the programs and events we presently offer but also in those that are yet to come.

4 I joined St. Mark's in 2016 after a lifetime membership in another downtown congregation. I was and continue to be drawn to St. Mark's because of the people who are welcoming and supportive of each other. I pray that the church's ministries and programs to each other and the community show our love of people from all walks of life.

BETH HAWKINS

1 I answered the call very quickly with a resounding "yes!" because I am ready to serve St. Mark's that has fed me spiritually for so many years.



2 When my children were young, I taught Godly Play and led the children's service a few Sunday's a month at St. Mark's. Today, I serve as a Lector and as co-facilitator of our Community of Hope chapter. I recently participated in St. Mark's *Sacred Ground* series, leading me to want to volunteer in more ways, including working as a volunteer at Abode Contemplative Care for the Dying, and I am beginning to serve our diocese's Immigration and Refugees Ministries. Additionally, I volunteer in various libraries, participate in monthly bird-counting hikes that provide research for science, and serve families as a bereavement doula when they have lost an infant.

3 I'm a life-long learner and just finished my Master's Degree in Library Science. So, at my core, I want to help people find what they are looking for. I think it's important that we remember that we are not telling people what they need and want, but helping them find what it is they are seeking, and loving and supporting them through every part of that journey.

4 I joined St. Mark's with my husband and family in 2009 after my grandmother, then choir member, Patti Young, moved out to the country with us. Almost ten years after her passing, we continue to make the long drive to St. Mark's because we value the loving and inclusive church family that works hard to take care not just of themselves, but of those in the surrounding community in need of our love.

STEVE HAYS

1 Despite working as a consultant on a limited basis since 2014, I have been mentally parked in retirement mode.



A few days prior to being contacted about serving on the Vestry, I read an article that really struck a chord in me. The author shared that "retirement" should be experienced as a transition rather than a final destination or identity - affording one the opportunity to re-invent oneself. As a result of that article, when I was asked about serving on the Vestry I was able to immediately agree without the analysis typical of my engineering training and experience. It is clearly the time to serve.

2 For the last several years, I have had the opportunity to work with the informal Operations group as we managed to improve our campus utility systems and reduce our water and energy costs. As a result, we gained a deeper understanding of the complexity of our campus and the need for ongoing maintenance. This "unintentional pre-work" prepared us to help define the scope of some of the repairs required during the scaffolding rebuild. As the new systems are completed and commissioned, we will have to repeat

the learning process.

3 The Vestry has performed excellently in supporting St. Mark's Core Vocation and I expect to learn a great deal from the continuing members. I believe the ongoing efforts to anticipate and prepare for future changes in our congregation's spiritual and financial characteristics will be crucial to preserving our ability to maintain our Core Vocation.

4 Deborah and I joined St. Mark's in 2008 after moving to San Antonio. We became Episcopalians in Corpus Christi in 1983 and then were enriched by belonging to a large church in Pennsylvania and a very small church in Louisiana. The opportunity to maintain our faith in many areas of the country and with a variety of congregations has always been a benefit of being Episcopalian. We have participated in many of the St. Mark's ministries since joining and I have been a member of the Wednesday night bible study for several years. I truly enjoy and appreciate the ritual and the spiritual aspects of our religion but ultimately the draw to a particular church will always be the members of the congregation as enhanced by the clergy and staff.

BRANDON RANEY

1 As members of St. Mark's, my family and I have appreciated the community environment, quality of leadership, and outreach opportunities the church provides. Elizabeth and I began attending St. Mark's shortly after we were married in 2004 and have since enjoyed watching our two children grow up within the St. Mark's community. Although I have been involved in a handful of volunteer and other church activities, I feel compelled to engage more. My wife has been able to give back through her work on the Vestry and the Rector Search Committee, and I was able to see directly the impact such involvement can make. St. Mark's has given so much to our family, and I am honored to have been considered for the Vestry where I believe I can fulfill my desire to give back to the church.



2 I have participated in several volunteer opportunities at St. Marks over the years, including Christmas to the Streets and SAMMinistries. But the activity that really drew me into the collaborative environment that defines St. Mark's discernment process occurred when I was invited to join the Lenten Offerings Task Force in 2015. The task force was made up of a varied group of parishioners who were able to work toward the common goal of envisioning and executing a renewed Lenten offering within which the St. Mark's community can engage. The discernment experience and exposure to the St. Mark's consensus model was enlightening to me and I believe will help guide my involvement as a member of the Vestry.

Additionally, I am a board member of Good Samaritan Community Services, and my experience working with this Episcopal non-profit ministry will translate well to my participation on the Vestry.

Finally, I work in downtown San Antonio every day, and through my business I have extensive involvement with the City of San Antonio that may be helpful to our community engagement efforts.

3 During the past several years following the formal definition of St. Mark's Core Vocation, I have watched the church's efforts to intentionally live into this vocation. I believe the Vestry can work to support the church by helping to guide outreach opportunities we pursue as a community (whether through giving of time or money) that fall within each of the tenets of this vocation. The St. Mark's community is full of talented people who are eager to give of themselves, and we need to ensure that opportunities for participation in the Core Vocation are available and communicated effectively.

4 My wife and I joined St. Mark's in 2007 after attending for two years following our marriage. Initially, John Lewis and Jane Patterson drew us to the St. Mark's community through The Workshop. Since then we have grown to love the people, leadership, various ministries, traditions, and most importantly, our children's engagement in church. St. Mark's is a special place that we cherish.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Lindsay Irvin is filling the remaining term of a Vestry member who stepped down due to a job relocation. Her bio is included on [page 8](#).

All Saints' Day

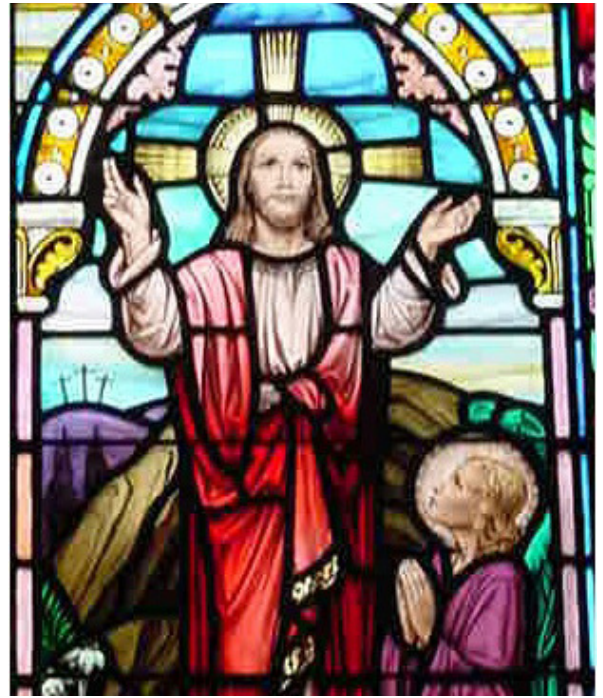
Sunday, November 7

by The Rev. Matt Wise

Each November 1, we come to the liturgical year's final Principal Feast in All Saints' Day, a part of Allhallowtide, a three-day commemoration including All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), All Saints' Day (All Hallows' Day), and All Souls' Day. So, what is this feast day all about and how will we commemorate it this year at St. Mark's?

During the Middle Ages, "saints" came to be defined quite narrowly as that word was applied primarily to persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds and exemplary witness to the Gospel were being recalled with gratitude by later generations. While those saints identified over the centuries by the church are still honored and celebrated with their own feast and fast days during the liturgical year, we now use All Saints' Day for remembering "saints" as the New Testament describes them - the entire membership of the Christian community, the whole Body of Christ. On this day, we rejoice in the communion of all the saints, here and now: the folks who have been beacons of Christ's light in our own lives, and the person who sits in the pew next to us (even if six feet away). And that word "communion" is an important one to note as well. We believe that as we pray and sing, as we participate in the Eucharist, and as we strive to live our lives according to Christ's teachings and example, that we "saints" are in spiritual union with one another, with all those who came long before us, and with all those who will come after us. So, this feast of All Saints' is our liturgical commemoration and reminder that you and I are not in this alone, that we are encouraged and supported by a great cloud of witnesses, and that the Body of Christ is infinitely bigger and broader than me and you.

Since November 1 falls on a Monday this year, the church calendar transfers the celebration to the following Sunday, November 7. As we celebrate this



feast at St. Mark's, you'll notice some special changes made to our weekly Eucharistic liturgy. We'll use a different Eucharistic Prayer than we are used to – Eucharistic Prayer D from the Book of Common Prayer, which not only includes the petitions we'd typically hear during the Prayers of the People, but also provides space for the prayerful recitation of the Necrology. Gathered around the altar, you'll hear clergy name, out loud, all those who have died and that we have prayed for together since last All Saints' Day. By calling these names and tolling the bell, we remember they join us around Christ's table, and that we continue to be surrounded by their witness and holiness in our lives.

And we will welcome the newest members of God's family as we baptize two children. With those lovely families, we will all renew our Baptismal promises in the covenant that binds us together in this communion of saints. And after the passing of the peace, we will celebrate all the gifts God has given us with our 2022 pledge ingathering, the sacramental offering of our talents and treasures for the ministry we are called to in this community. As you can see, this liturgy promises to be one of the highlights of our year together and I pray you'll be able to join us either in person or online. "But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day; the saints triumphant rise in bright array; the King of Glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!"

~"For All the Saints" ~William Walsham How

All Saints' Evensong

Sunday, November 7

4.30pm recital | 5.00pm Evensong

Organ recital by Mark Pacoe,
Artistic Director of East River Catholics
and Director of Music and Organist at
St. John Nepomucene and
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in
Manhattan and Roosevelt Island.

Featuring the world premiere
of Ctrl+Alt+Del by Austin Philemon



Please join us for Solemn Choral Evensong for All Saints' on Sunday, November 7, sung by the St. Mark's choir under the direction of Jon Johnson: Samuel Gaskin, Organist. The Evensong is preceded by a half-hour organ recital at 4.30pm performed by Mark Pacoe. A festive reception will immediately follow Choral Evensong in Tucker Courtyard.

Music for Choral Evensong:

Introit | Holy is the True Light
William Harris

Preces & Responses
Philip Radcliffe

Psalms 148 & 150
David Willcocks/C.V. Stanford

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E
Herbert Murrill

Anthem | And I Saw a New Heaven
Edgar Bainton

The 2021-2022 season of Music from St. Mark's, offers a variety of music for everyone ranging from Choral Evensong and Lessons and Carols, to Baroque concerts and contemporary music. Our beautiful gothic space and Austin/Kegg pipe organ provide a wonderful setting for performers from our local community, universities, and around the globe. All are welcome and warmly invited to enjoy the musical offerings this season.

We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, November 7.

Sincerely,

Jon Johnson
Director of Music and Organist

Please visit [Music From St. Mark's webpage](#)
for more information.

A Word About Evensong +

The practice of singing evening prayers is as old as the church itself. The Anglican service of Evening Prayer was a result of the joining of two of the ancient monastic offices –Vespers and Compline – into one service. Evensong is sung daily in many cathedrals and parish churches throughout the Anglican Communion—at any given moment, someone is offering up a voice of sung prayer. Evensong+ enhances the Music from St. Mark's offerings, joining the ancient tradition of sung prayer with an extended prelude of beauty and creativity. Guest artists from around the country will present brief recitals on selected Sundays. We invite you to join us in our hallowed space for an extra few minutes of tranquility and peace.

Events are free and begin at 5.00pm unless otherwise noted. Free parking is in the church lot on Jefferson Street between Martin and Pecan.

LINDSAY IRVIN



1 The call to join the St. Mark's Vestry was unexpected. But after almost 25 years of practicing pediatrics in San Antonio, I am used to surprises. 2021 has been a year of unprecedented challenges and unanticipated blessings, and I am delighted for the opportunity to serve St. Mark's, supporting Beth, Ann, and Matt and our amazing and resilient staff and their heartfelt work throughout the pandemic and the challenges of our building's reconstruction.

My husband Lennie and I are both life-long Episcopalians and Camp Capers alums. We have two beautiful sons - Lawrence, who is a firefighter/paramedic and Joseph, who is doing PhD research in Biology at the University of Rochester

2 I have run my own medical office since 2003, and am used to responding to a variety of daily crises. I can bring that experience in financial, construction, personnel, and infectious disease management to support our church in an unpredictable time.

The most significant activity I have participated in at St. Mark's is *This is Sacred Ground*, a course on racial justice which is part of the Episcopal Church's vision of *Becoming Beloved Community*. I will co-facilitate a group for Sacred Ground this year and am looking forward to learning more about reconciliation, racial healing, and justice.

Another deeply meaningful experience has been participating in the weekly St. Mark's meditation group, and Mary Earle's retreats. I am also a Lector/Intercessor/Eucharistic Minister. The Sunday 7.45am service, and the precious group of people who regularly attend, have become my spiritual anchor.

In the San Antonio Community, I have served on the boards of Sunshine Cottage School for the Deaf and the Good Samaritan Center. And it has been my joy to work with Texas Public Radio to help create

a talent show for young musicians in San Antonio – Inspired by KPAC 88.3 FM San Antonio - which is now in its ninth year.

3 My direct experience with feeding the hungry comes from being a pediatrician. I work with nursing mothers, introducing hungry babies to solid foods when they are ready, and directing older children to foods that will give them solid nourishment for their growing bodies and developing brains. My main philosophy behind nutritional education is my patients have to live in their bodies for the rest of their lives, so we want to go with foods that will set them up for health and success for the next few decades. Which is a decent metaphor for what I envision the Vestry doing to support Feeding San Antonio the Bread of Life. Children need food to survive, but they also need sunlight, friends, play, books, animals, and music to develop their identity and find delight in existence. St. Mark's solid focus on education, music, fellowship and service is something I want to help sustain, with an eye toward doing things that will make us healthier a few years, or decades, down the road.

4 My grandparents and great-grandparents were members of St. Mark's, so coming back to the church a few years ago felt like entering back into the communion of saints and being welcomed home. But it isn't just the exquisite music, the open-mindedness, the intelligent commitment to service, or our family history that has drawn me back here. It is the moments of quiet that are anything but empty - the wonderful old sanctuary in the early morning with its resonant creaks and sunlight, the sweet silence of meditating with beloved friends whom I have known since I was a child, the hesitant sleepy voices at the early service, and the sacred pause between rings of the church bell.

And I can still see it like it was yesterday when my youngest son Joseph, 22 years ago, as he was held in Mike Chalk's arms after being baptized during the Easter Vigil service. Joe was all bright eyes and damp baby hair, and Mike paused for a moment and just held him as he looked out at the congregation with such intelligence and peace. And everyone looked back at him with such love, accepting him, God's love mirrored back to our beautiful baby. That for me was an experience of beloved community.

IN REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

through September 16, 2021

MEMORIALS

Halim G. Aboul-Saad by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Clara Jean Baca by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Ken Bryars by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Ronald Calgaard by Joe & Diana Harris,
Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Aubrey Carter by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Stuart Cavender by Richard Nelson,
Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Hugh "Sunny" Fitzsimmons by
Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

John Franco by Jerry & Lynn Boland, Janice G. Clborne,
Emily & Don Newcomb, Gregory Skillern,
Polly & George Spencer, Elizabeth & Cliff Waller

Col. Alan Gaston by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Madelyn Hauser by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Alice Lynch by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Cal Koontz by Jill & George Vassar

Alice Lynch by Joe & Diana Harris

Patsy Scott by Janet & John Hancock

Carrie Spencer by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Elsie Steg by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Elise Townsend by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Lillian Wilfong by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

Bartell Zachry by Cliff & Elizabeth Waller

SPECIAL GIFTS

IN HONOR OF

Tookie Spoor's birthday by Martha Steves
(to Horizon Endowment)

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

John Franco by Elizabeth & Drew Cauthorn

ST. CECILIA GUILD

Mac McFadden by Drew & Elizabeth Cauthorn

Carrie Spencer by Diana & Joe Harris

Arthur Winden by Diana & Joe Harris

IN THANKSGIVING

*In celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary on July 4, 1981,
and in appreciation for **The Rev. Cliff Waller**
who officiated our wedding at St. Mark's
by Caroline & John Crider*

GIVING TO ST. MARK'S

Online: [Stmarks-SA.org](https://stmarks-SA.org)

Phone: 210-226-2426

Questions:

Email Dina Aboul Saad,

Director of Advancement

dsaad@stmarks-sa.org



Newcomer Gathering

12.30pm | Sunday, October 24 | Tucker Courtyard

Often as people search out a community of faith to call home, they are looking for two things - hoping to find a place in which their spirits can be nurtured and fed, usually through worship, learning and formation, fellowship and belonging; and for a place in which they can offer their gifts in community.

Join St. Mark's clergy, current members, and other newcomers for an outdoor lunch and conversation following the 11.15am service. This is a great way to meet others and learn about getting connected at St. Mark's. Discover how you can find sustenance for the spiritual journey and take part in the life of the community. Register online or email The Rev. Ann Fraser, afraser@stmarks-sa.org, for more information.

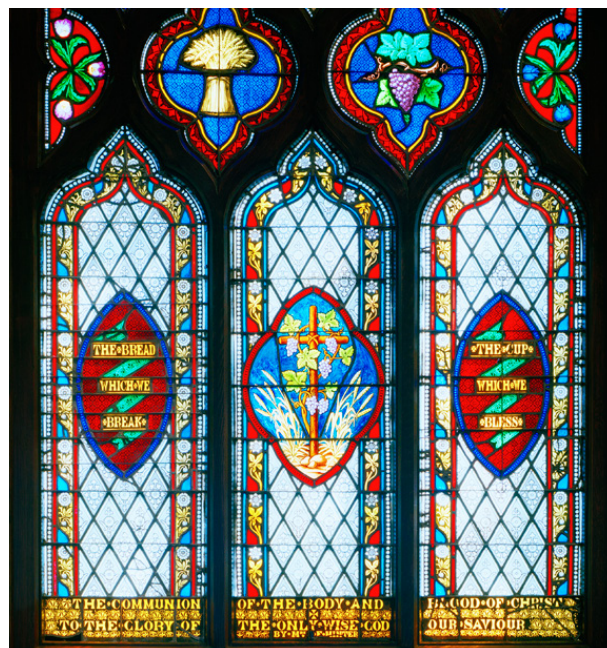
You will receive Newcomer/Membership materials and have an opportunity to have your photo taken for our online parish directory.

Adult Formation - Rector's Forum

Separation and Return: How Grace is Found in Sharing our Story with One Another and Connecting it to Scripture

10.10am | continues Sundays through October 24
Room 212 and via Zoom

We've been through a community experience of separation and return both through the scaffolding event and the global pandemic. While we are still in a process of return, we have likely experienced this in different ways. Join Beth for this six-week course as we reflect as a community on the role of narrative story telling as a means of reengaging with one another and connecting our experience with the narratives of scripture.



A Practical Theology of The Eucharist: Feast of Thanksgiving, Remembering, and Sending

10.10am | November 7-21 | Room 212 & via Zoom

If you want to know what we Episcopalians believe, the best place to start is the liturgy. In this three-week class, we will explore how our practices in the Eucharistic liturgies embody our theology, comparing different rites, prayers and individual pieties. Am I supposed to be crossing myself right now? What does it mean that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine? What is transubstantiation and is it contagious? What does participating in the Eucharist on Sunday morning equip me to do or be Monday through Saturday?

For details, email The Rev. Ann Fraser,
afraser@stmarks-sa.org or
The Rev. Matt Wise, mwise@stmarks-sa.org.

The St. Mark's Bookstore invites you for a book signing and conversation. Mark your calendar for 6.00pm, Thursday, November 18, for a book signing and conversation with Amy Frykholm, author of "Wild Woman: A Footnote, The Desert, and My Quest For An Elusive Saint."

You can attend either in person in Room 212 on the 2nd Floor of Parish House, or via Zoom bit.ly/BookstoreNov18.

Amy Frykholm is an award-winning writer, scholar, and journalist whose nonfiction works cover the territory of religion throughout history from saints to apocalyptic. A senior editor for the Christian Century magazine, she appears frequently on television and radio programs as an expert in American religion. For more information, email StMarksBookstore@gmail.com.



ST. MARK'S
BOOKSTORE

Fun, Family, Fellowship, and Friendship

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 3

4.00pm Drive through in Parking Lot

5.00pm Pecan Street Courtyard

One of the favorite events at St. Mark's is coming once again! Pack up your pets for the annual Blessing of the Animals. Same as last year, we are offering drive-through option at 4.00pm in the parking lot. Then, at 5.00pm outside in Pecan Street Courtyard, we are offering an in-person liturgy. So bring your furry - or scaly - pet family members for this fun, family-friendly, event.

Stuffed Pet Adoption

Every Sunday in October beginning October 3

2nd Floor of the Parish House

Every child will have an opportunity to adopt a stuffed animal, becoming their Pet Prayer Partners. Each adopting child will receive an official certificate reminding them to read their bibles and pray with them often. They will also be encouraged to bring their pet to church and Sunday school each week!

The Children's Ministry Social

9.45-10.05am | October 24 and November 21

Once a month the children and their parents will be invited to gather together in the classrooms for social time - used for friendship and reconnection between parents and children.

Blessing of the Costumes and Trunk or Treat

5.00pm | Wednesday, October 27 | Tucker Courtyard

You're invited to wear costumes and bring your family to this fun, intergenerational event. Pizza will be provided as well as face-painting outside in Tucker Courtyard. The clergy will bless your costumes and lead a procession into the parking lot, where there will be spooky-fun games and Trunk or Treating with cars hosted by many of the ministries of St. Mark's! Trunk or Treating bags will be provided.

All Saints' Presentation

9.00am | Sunday, October 31

All children will be introduced to their own saint based on their name or their birth date, with the youth joining us to celebrate All Saints' Day. This program will run concurrently with the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the church.

For more information, including details about the month-long Stuffed Pet Adoption, check out the Children's Ministry webpage Stmarks-SA.org/children





ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
San Antonio

PERIODICAL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & STEWARDSHIP

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

10.10am in the church & Watch Live Page | Sunday, October 31

Make plans to join us on Sunday, October 31 for our annual Parish Meeting. You will hear from our Rector, Wardens, Treasurer, and learn what St. Mark's has been up to this year! For more information, please check the weekly eNews. If you're not on the mailing list, [sign up online](#).

GENEROSITY KITS

October 21-24

Be on the lookout for a delivery on your doorstep! The items are meant to be both playful and centering, and to remind us of God's generosity to and through us. A special treat from our kitchen staff will be included! Please call the church at 210-226-2426 if you will be away during that time and we will hold your bag at the church.

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover photo: Dina Aboul Saad - *Vestry member Trey Thompson & Staff member Shea Pollom at 2020 Generosity Kits distribution.*

Photos in this issue by: Tracie Andrews, Rachel Dugger, Brooks Englehardt, The Rev. Ann Fraser, and The Rev. Matt Wise

STEWARDSHIP INGATHERING

Sunday, November 7 during worship services

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

Our offering is an expression of our trust in God, above all else, as we move into an unknown future.

It is in giving that we stay connected to what is important in life and not allow materialism to define who we are; and it is in giving that we gain a deeper understanding of the depth of sacrificial love God has for us. It is in giving that we grow in our own personal journey as a follower of Jesus.

Pledge cards will be mailed mid-October. Plan to bring them with you to church November 7, for a joyful blessing of your generosity. If you can't join us in person, we invite you to [pledge online](#).