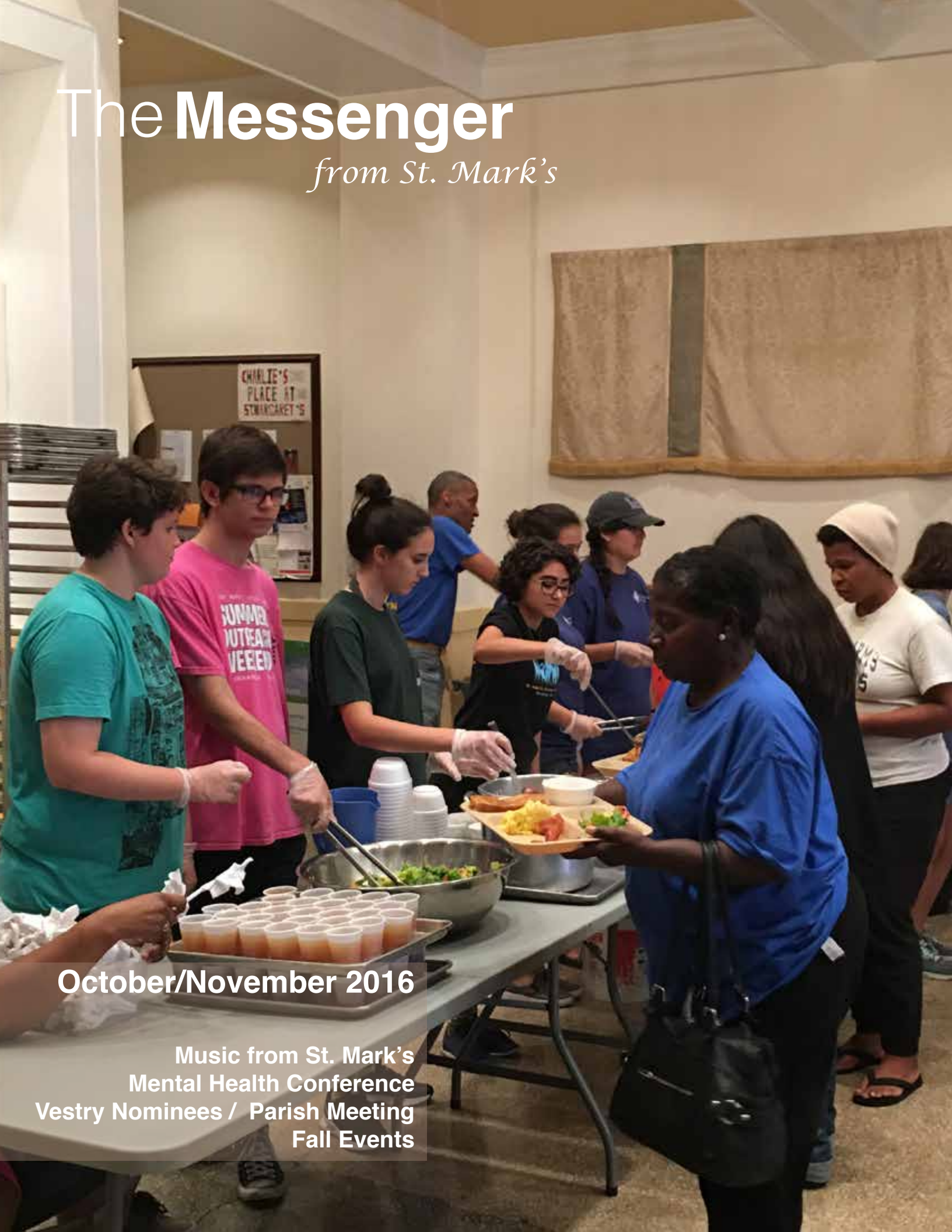


The Messenger

from St. Mark's



October/November 2016

**Music from St. Mark's
Mental Health Conference
Vestry Nominees / Parish Meeting
Fall Events**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

-- Psalm 119:105

When thinking about leadership, there is usually some energy given to the importance of vision. Does that person or community have it? Can it be developed? Do we know it when we see it? In a political season such as we find ourselves, it doesn't take long to discuss whether or not we feel connected to the vision that is being cast by candidates, regardless of their party.

Despite going through several leadership training programs in my various careers, I often find the topic of vision and leadership—well, frankly—boring. I do not enjoy reading leadership books. Luckily I have a few close friends that do, so they keep me up to date on the latest trends. Adaptive leadership has probably captured my attention the longest. I like it because its focus seems more congruent with my belief in spiritual practices and their development of a particular character of being.

I realize that most of why I don't like many books or conversations on the topic of leadership and visioning is that they tend to be too abstract. They don't feel rooted in the particularity of the leaders or communities. Even when there are helpful principles, I don't find them very exciting.

What is very exciting to me is trying to discern what vision is present in the community of St. Mark's. One of the first questions many people asked me upon arrival was what my vision for the parish was and whether I was willing to share it. I believe to a person my answer was that vision was something we were going to discern together. I believe strongly my job as a leader is to help facilitate that process, not to come with one ready-made to impose on a congregation that was already thriving long before my arrival.



The One Body, Many Members stewardship theme of the past two years facilitated a variety of gatherings and conversations in the parish that have made us more committed and energized than ever to live our our core vocation in the city of San Antonio. Now when we talk about Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life, I sense we have a deepening practice and understanding of what that means to us in this season of our community life. New and renewed programs are emerging that are grounded in our communal discernment and commitment to one another.

When our new Stewardship Co-Chairs assembled (huge thanks to Chris and Dell Villa, Barbara and Darin Digby, and Reagan and Tricia Houston), we wanted to have a theme for the next two years that would continue the important work of discerning who God is calling us to be in this time and place. We had energy and vitality around answering the calling to live more fully the vision that God has for St. Mark's in the coming years. You'll be hearing more in the coming weeks about our hopes for the next year and we'll be asking

for your continued generosity and commitment to make this possible. It takes each of us gathered together to discern God's vision and to live it with a sense of joy and purpose.

Peace,

Beth+

Rector's Forum: The Mind of Christ in Community

Led by The Rev. Beth Knowlton and The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson

This class is looking at Christian Community as an embodied practice of the ways of Jesus. Our four major themes include conversation and discernment; care for the suffering; freedom and holiness; and justice and generosity. Each week includes an essay, group conversation, and spiritual practices to use during the week.

10/2 Communities that Care for the Sick and Suffering
Essay Theme: Watchfulness

10/9 Communities that Care for the Sick and Suffering
Essay Theme: Courage and Patience

10/16 Communities of Justice and Generosity
Essay Theme: Economy

10/23 Communities of Justice and Generosity
Essay Theme: Generosity

10/30 Communities of Freedom and Holiness
Essay Theme: Continuity and Fidelity

11/6 Parish Meeting in Gosnell Hall

11/13 Communities of Freedom and Holiness
Essay Theme: Incarnation

11/20 Mind of Christ as Community (Class Wrap-Up)
Essay Theme: Gratitude

Essays and recording are online at stmarks-sa.org. Click on the Resources menu.

Music from St. Mark's

OCTOBER 9, SUNDAY AT 5.00PM	SECOND SUNDAY CHORAL EVENSONG The St. Mark's Choir and Treble Choir sing music of Leighton, Murrill, and Wood. Holy Eucharist immediately following.
NOVEMBER 1 TUESDAY at 7.00PM	VESPERS FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS A service of evening prayer with music and readings.
NOVEMBER 11 FRIDAY 11.00AM	LIVE RADIO BROADCAST ON TEXAS PUBLIC RADIO A concert of music and reflections for Armistice Day. Featuring songs from 'A Shropshire Lad' by George Butterworth. Please plan to be seated by 10.45am. This event is free and open to the entire San Antonio community. <i>Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.</i>
NOVEMBER 13 SUNDAY, 5.00PM	SECOND SUNDAY: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY A Requiem Eucharist featuring the Faure 'Requiem.' This service marks the 98th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the First World War. We join with the Anglican Communion in remembering those who died in wars and conflicts throughout the world, as we conclude the octave of All Saints.
DECEMBER 4 SUNDAY, 5.00PM	ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS The Choirs of St. Mark's sing a service in celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
DECEMBER 10 SATURDAY 6.30PM	BRASS, ORGAN, AND CHOIR A festive evening of music for the season. Highlights include Tchaikovsky's 'Nutcracker Suite'; Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride'; Frosty the Snowman; and 'Twas the night before Christmas. Narration for the evening will be provided by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton and Stephen Blount. <i>Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.</i>
DECEMBER 18 SUNDAY, 9.00AM	CEREMONY OF CAROLS The trebles from St. Mark's Choir are joined by harpist Paula Page in Benjamin Britten's beloved 'Ceremony of Carols'. <i>Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.</i>

Pathways to Hope Mental Illness Conference

The last weekend of August, more than 1400 people from across San Antonio and the country gathered at the Tobin Center for the *Pathways to Hope* conference to think about how faith communities can be a part of the conversation for hope and healing to those who experience mental illness. The conference, a first ever of its kind for San Antonio, was sponsored by a broad coalition of partners including St. Mark's, the Diocese of West Texas, First Presbyterian Church, the HEB Family Foundation, Bexar County, First Baptist Church, Oak Hills Church, and the Bexar County Health Collaborative, as well as many others.



The Rev. Carol Morehead



The conference was the idea of Doug Beach and I. Doug had long wanted to have a conference of this kind, modeled on similar conferences that have happened in Tyler, Dallas, and at the Saddleback Church in California, and as the chair of the San Antonio NAMI board (National Alliance for Mental Illness), he has spent the past several years building relationships and advocating for more interaction within the faith community, both with those experiencing mental illness and providers of services and treatment. My own involvement goes back to my days before becoming a priest when I worked with Dan in the mental health field. I often saw the great need and the so often lack of both understanding and resources available to people. When Dan was invited to speak at conferences in 2014 and 2015, I went along. The final night of the conference in California last October, I awoke in the night convicted that we needed to have a similar conference in San Antonio; it was as if like Samuel, God was calling me in the night. Doug and I combined our energies, began to build a steering team, and dreamed a big dream. The whole process was a prayerful one as well as a kind of leap of faith. God certainly can do more than we can ask or imagine.



The Messenger, USPS 514-020
Vol 105, Issue 5, Published bi-monthly

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
315 E. Pecan Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Phone: 210-226-2426
www.stmarks-sa.org
Editor: communications@stmarks-sa.org

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



Every year, 1 in 5 people experience mental illness of some kind – depression and anxiety as well as other serious illnesses. Upwards of 40% or more people will have at least one episode of mental illness over their lifetime. That means that someone you know – a parent, child, brother, sister, friend, yourself – will experience some kind of mental illness in their lifetime. And when these episodes happen, around 70% of people will first approach a leader in a faith community as a first step for help, even if they are not active in that community. Sadly, faith communities are often ill-equipped to help people find resources. And even more tragically, when they approach a faith leader, some people find a response not only that doesn't help, but that can also harm: they are told that their illness is a matter of a lack of faith or prayer.

The *Pathways to Hope* conference featured a mix of plenary session and panels made up of community partners from San Antonio. Our goal was to begin a conversation by speaking out to break the stigma. Plenary sessions were a mix of personal experiences, research/information, and inspiration for what we can do together as communities of hope. Only when we can begin to give voice to what so many people suffer can we begin to move forward and find resources for

healing and hope. The talks are available on the Pathways website (www.pathwaystohope.net).

This conference was a first step in opening the dialog for faith communities to partner with health care providers, community resources, and agencies so that together we can break the stigma and begin to form alliances that will bring help to people. *Pathways to Hope* will continue to work with year-round programs that bring resources to faith communities. Led by the Bexar County Health Collaborative, this effort will be multi-year with many opportunities for more communities to be inspired, educated, and energized for action. Along with classes and training in the coming year, we plan to hold another conference next year that will build on this one.



I personally want to thank the St. Mark's community for the incredible support you gave. We hosted a special dinner for speakers and sponsors, offered our resources for parking and steering team meetings, and served over 500 people box lunches in Gosnell Hall. So many of you were at the conference or there as volunteers to serve, and even more of you gave your support through prayer and monetary donations. Thank you, thank you, thank you! If you are interested in finding out more about the work being done and the plans for the coming year, please either speak with me or visit www.pathwaystohope.net.

Children's Ministry

We have had a wonderful start to our program year in Children's Ministries. Children's Formation classes are up and running and the kids and leaders seem to be enjoying the Spark lessons and all the creative activities. We have also begun our longer Children's Chapel service, with children being dropped off in the Jerusalem chapel before the 9.00 service. This has allowed us to include music throughout the lesson (led by our music staff) and add additional activities to reinforce the lesson of the day.

As a result of the Christian Formation Summit held by Ministry Architects in May, there is a list of Core Competencies that will determine most of the programming for the Children's Ministry going forward. For example, one prominent core competency to come out of the summit was 'Biblical Knowledge'. To address this important item, the Spark curriculum was chosen for this year, as it provides children with a broad experience of Bible stories. The Children's Ministry will spotlight different Core Competencies throughout the year. In September, our focus was 'Teaching our Children to Pray'. We learned the Hand Prayer in Children's Chapel and in some of our Children's Formation classes, and we interpreted the Lord's Prayer in our older classes. We also added a Prayer Bench to the Jerusalem Chapel, complete with (battery-operated!) candles.



Shea Pollom and Rachel Doyle

For the months of October and November, the Children's Ministry program will move into a Season of Abundance and Blessing. During this time, we will focus on the core competency value of 'Service to Others'. We will weave this value throughout Children's Chapel lessons and Formation classes. In November, children will create Blessing Bags for families to take home, keep in their cars, and hand out when needed. During the Sunday formation hour, children will pack these bags with food and clothing items for those in need. For more details on monthly themes (and all core competencies), please see the bulletin board in the 2nd floor atrium. There are some wonderful family activities planned at St. Mark's during this Season of Abundance and Blessing.

St. Francis Day & Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 2 - 5.00pm

Bring your pets, pictures of your pets or your stuffed animals to receive a blessing from one of our clergy. This event will begin with the reading of the children's book *Geraldine the Holstein*, written and illustrated by St. Mark's own Jamie Maverick.

Blessing of the Costumes - Wednesday, October 26

Dinner begins at 5.00pm, Costume parade and blessing begins at 6.00pm.

Put on your Halloween costume and come for dinner, games, costume parade, and blessing!

Advent Wreath Making - Sunday, November 27 - 10.10am

During the formation hour, enjoy refreshments and make an Advent wreath to take home at this intergenerational event.

In case you haven't noticed, the 2nd floor of the Parish House has undergone some changes! There are now two seating areas in the atrium, where we love seeing children and families come together for fellowship on Sunday mornings. The Jerusalem chapel (where the Children's Chapel service is held) has also been rearranged to make it a more sacred space for children to participate in their own worship service each Sunday. Stop by the 2nd floor to take a look...and stay a while!

Please see the Parish Life Handbook and Children's page on the St. Mark's website for more details about Sunday programming. Also, 'like' our Children and Family Ministries page on Facebook (facebook.com/stmarksfamily) to see photos and updates throughout the year. Email Shea and Rachel at children@stmarks-sa.org.

Member Spotlight

I Peter 4:10-11 *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”*

Amanda Hurst Ochse was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, her Father’s family home, but because of the strong ties through her Mother to one of the early German families who settled in south Texas, the family made its way back to San Antonio when she was seven and to St. Mark’s soon thereafter.

She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and attended Mary Baldwin. She returned to be presented in the Order of the Alamo Coronation, then marry and start to raise her family of twin boys and a daughter. During this time she started on the road of service: to her family, her church and her community.

The organizations Amanda chose to be a part of and give her time to have the goal of serving those in need or are civic-minded. All of them wisely recognized her leadership skills and invited her to be their Chairman/President. In several cases, she was the first woman to hold the office. They include: the Junior League, the Charity Ball Association, Sunshine Cottage, the Boy Scouts, the Witte Museum, and the American Red Cross. She has served on/led the Terrell Hills City Council, the San Antonio Air Force Commission Council, the Battle of Flowers Association, the Fiesta Commission, and Military Civilian.



A faithful and active member of St. Mark’s, Amanda served four terms on our Vestry. She was a cashier for Lenten Luncheons for 20 years, and she was on the Altar Guild, serving as chairman three separate times.

Amanda Ochse is a precious child of God who has led by example in a way that is gracious and inclusive. I have had the delight of following her lead and working along side of her on many occasions and she has enriched my life.

And she doesn’t stop! Two examples:

After we finished the remodeling of the parish hall and sanctuary, we had a gathering of our parishioners who couldn’t attend church on Sunday but could come to a special event planned especially to accommodate them. When I called Amanda, who was living at the Forum, SHE was the one who stepped in to invite the guests and organize the transportation! She also called to say she was including several folks who were Episcopalians from other parishes but really wanted to see St. Mark’s!

Later as we deliberated about raising money for a third priest and to help our debt retirement, the two people Beverly and I went to for their wise counsel were Jack Hebdon and Amanda. It is not surprising that they both enthusiastically urged, “Of course, you must go for it!” As she has all of her life, Amanda certainly continues to use her gifts administering grace in various forms for the service of others and we are so grateful to be a part of the community that is on the receiving end. Thank you, Amanda!

--Submitted by Martha Steves

Senior Tea

The Senior Tea planned for the spring was rained out but now is back on track! It is rescheduled for October 12 from 1.00-3.00pm. Invitations have been mailed. But if you didn’t receive one and you’d like to come, please by all means do! RSVP to the church at 210-226-2426. We look forward to having a great gathering for fellowship and refreshment.

Reflection on Youth Group/Youth Choir Trip

This year's Youth Group and Choir trip to Washington DC was a huge adventure and was a journey that started when we arrived home after our Exeter Residency. The planning for these trips takes a lot of time, energy, people and cooperation so it can be easy to lose sight of why we strive to expand our boundaries and take our work with us to other places. It can be easy to forget that we are doing this in the name of God, to do His work and be His hands to share our gifts with the world. Our youth ministers and priests on the trip reminded us each day about why we were being given this incredible opportunity to travel to our Nation's Capital. At the end of our first full day we all sat down in a circle in a very generic conference room as Matt asked the group a series of questions, one of them being "Where did you see God today?". It's an open ended response question and with a group of mainly youth sometimes it can be hard to extract serious, insightful conversation- but you wouldn't have been able to tell that night. We heard from one voice, then two, then three, and eventually most people spoke up about where they saw god and how they felt. The emotionally challenging things we'd seen that day included the nations Holocaust museum and Arlington National cemetery moved a lot of the group to share their experiences with God sightings.



Throughout the week this was on my mind, and albeit everyone else's as the choir was given the opportunity to sing in an evening service at the National Cathedral. This privilege is not lightly given and was an amazing experience I will never forget. The space was absolutely magnificent and the history of the whole cathedral was full and interesting, we sang to an audience that included President Woodrow Wilson, Hellen Keller, and other renowned people who are buried there.

We topped off our singing experience by leading the Sunday worship at Christ Church in Alexandria where George Washington and Robert E. Lee attended during their lives. It is also frequented by almost every president and even Winston Churchill has visited. The congregation and clergy were so inviting towards us and the experience was so unique. These opportunities to worship in such uniquely incredible and holy places was why we chose to travel to Washington D.C at all.

We spent an afternoon at the Newseum, one of Washington D.C's finest museums. As soon as we got there the group noticed that the newspaper posted for Texas that day on the wall was none other than the San Antonio Express News. Each place had something special or educational about it in its own way and I know that everyone on the trip could blabber on about they own favorite spot for hours. Throughout all of the monuments, many museums, food trucks, china town experiences, miles walked, and music sung the Saint Marks community was able to experience God through new places and experiences every day.

-- Submitted by Catherine McNeel (St. Mark's Youth Group Senior)



Vestry Election at Parish Meeting

At the Parish Meeting on November 6, you will have the opportunity to hear from your clergy and lay leadership about our life together over the past 12 months, hear about plans for the coming year, sample pies that will be on sale for your holiday gatherings, and select the next Vestry class.

Please take time to read about each of the candidates below in alphabetical order. They are all well-qualified, having been vetted by the Vestry Discernment Committee. Consider how they may lend their gifts and experience to advance our Core Vocation and serve this community. 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?

John Beauchamp

1) I feel that serving on the vestry is an opportunity to give back to the Church that has meant so much to my family and me, as well as to the community as a whole. Until recently, my experience at the St. Mark's has largely been a one-way relationship. I have received grace from the relationship time and time again. Whether because of age, experience, or calling, I have the desire to be a part of a two-way relationship where I give back. To me, this would be a meaningful experience and an obligation that I would not take lightly. **2)** Over the past two years I have had the benefit of sitting on various Saint Mark's committees, including the Lenten Offering Taskforce, the Commission on Ministries, and the Outreach Grant Committee. The experience has opened my eyes to the deep meaningfulness of the Church to the Parish and the broader community. Also, my professional career requires me to work with budgets, balance sheets, and income statements on a daily basis. I would hope that the business discipline required by my job would be of some benefit to the vestry. **3)** So long as the vestry keeps the Core Vocation as the center of its discernment/decision making process, its work efforts should align with the established principals of the clergy and the Parish. In particular, I believe the emphasis the Core Vocation places on "the hungry" is a constant reminder that the Church provides to those in real need. This is a profound undertaking – and one that should keep the vestry centered and focused. **4)** I joined St. Mark's in 2003/2004. I was originally drawn to the Church because I felt a degree of anonymity that I did not feel at my parents' Church. This made the experience personal—I was attending service because of want, not because of others' expectations. Since joining, the Church has become a focus for my family life. It provides a connection with God and Jesus, a source of peace, and a foundation for my children. I very much want to help the Church continue providing this experience to others.



Bobby Cavendar

1) I have been a member of St Mark's Church my whole life. I feel a need to give back to the church and the community of St Marks. **2)** I have been involved in several capital campaigns for St Marks. I am an owner of a large automotive dealership group and I feel that my business career gives me the experience to establish goals and objectives, implement processes, perform marketing analysis, and deal with consumers. **3)** Being a downtown church, I have always believed that St Marks should be leading the effort to support individuals in our area who are in need of food, shelter, and clothing. We should also be focused on helping these individuals to expand their opportunities for an enhanced life and becoming self-sufficient. The Vestry will establish the business plan and engage our congregation to help fulfill this mission. **4)** For over 60 years, I have been attending St Mark's Church. My faith is a big part of my life and I feel St Marks is the conduit to feed my spiritual needs.

Vestry Nominees

Gary Chambers

1) St. Mark's is a vibrant, dynamic community that continues to grow in service to the entire community. Such vitality is exciting to watch and invites further participation. It would be a privilege to increase my involvement with this remarkable work, drawing on my experience and skills to assist and support what is already in place. 2) I am a retired public school administrator, having served on the St. Mark's vestry and as Senior Warden. Prior to coming to St. Mark's, I have served on two other parish vestries as well as Senior Warden in one of those parishes. My wife and I taught Christian Formation for fourth and fifth graders at St. Mark's for three years. Presently at St. Mark's I am an Altar Guild member, an usher, a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and a lector. Additionally I am one of three leaders for the current youth confirmation class. 3) "Feeding" does have many levels and is an appropriate vocation for St. Mark's. It implies that we are a giving, open community focused on what we are called by God to do....being of service to others. This mission can be supported by the vestry through thoughtful and meaningful decisions that maintain a focus on the Core Vocation.

4) My wife Pam and I have been St. Mark's members since 2000. We are drawn to St. Mark's because of its nurturing and supportive environment for us as we continue our spiritual journey. That connection is heightened when I see St. Mark's ministering to all people, not just a few. The inclusion of everyone is an important and significant value for me.



Anne Connor



1) I love St. Mark's and appreciate the direction we're going, and I want to help. I am particularly excited about the idea that our parish is turning the corner from self-examination to outreach. I hope to see young families and youth continue and expand their role and leadership in outreach as we make this meaningful transition. I have felt called and connected to the Episcopal Church in general since I was very young. 2) My participation in the St. Mark's community includes over 20 years of choir service, a past term on the Vestry, two terms on Commission on Ministries (I was chair last year), and some recent work re-imagining our outreach work. In the broader community, I have served on the boards of St. Paul's Episcopal Montessori School and the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. My paid work is as Director of Community Grants for Methodist Healthcare Ministries, where I have acquired a deep knowledge of nonprofit organizations and community needs. My experience in nonprofit leadership, strategic thinking, and community outreach should be helpful if I am selected for Vestry. 3) I envision the Vestry

providing leadership in integrating aspects of the core vocation into all programs and outreach of the church. I see the Vestry developing clear and intentional themes that resonate with the congregation and with the larger community, helping to attract new members and building on the existing energy at St. Mark's. 4) My husband Michael and I joined St. Mark's in 1995. We stay because we feel connected to the people in the congregation, and we appreciate the welcoming, inclusive, and loving atmosphere of this parish. We also appreciate the call to discernment and consensus that marks this church community. I feel particularly blessed to be part of the Parish Choir, which is a pathway to spirituality, service, and a sense of community for me, as well as making the worship experience beautiful and enjoyable. Another reason we stay is the strong staff and clergy leadership. St. Mark's is my home.

Vestry Nominees

Kate Crone

1) I feel it is important that all segments of the parish population be represented on the vestry. I have been at St. Mark's for approximately 16 years. I have served in a variety of ways in the parish. 2) In the past I have served on vestry, on the outreach committee, and as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor for 3 years. I was a coordinator of Foyers dinner groups. I worked at Haven for Hope for 2 years and last year helped with its Book Drive. I have also attended the Tuesday morning study group and John and Carol's Thursday morning bible study. I joined a Dinner for Eight group this spring. I am a graduate of EFM. I currently sing in St. Mark's Choir (about my 14th year) and serve as a Lay Eucharistic minister. I have also been active with St. Benedict's Workshop since its beginning. I continue to participate in the Tuesday morning reflection group. I have served on the board of CAM, an organization St. Mark's helped found. I continue to work as a volunteer. 3) St. Mark's is a vibrant community which I hope will continue to build its outreach to the wider San Antonio community and its ministry to children and youth who are our future. 4) I am drawn to this parish because I believe it honors the value of the journey inward and the journey outward and works to keep the two in balance.



Mike Duffy



1) St. Mark's has given me the gift of many opportunities to serve the parish and community. I have found our church to be a remarkably friendly, hospitable, welcoming place ... and would like to contribute in any way I can. 2) I have participated as a lay eucharistic minister, eucharistic visitor, lector, usher, and member of the Altar Guild – of which I am vice-chair this year. I am on two St Mark's teams serving lunch or dinner at Haven for Hope, and am coordinating this year's "Christmas to the Streets" barbecue dinner service. Participating in both our liturgy and outreach have a great learning experience for me, and I would like to use those experiences to be of further service. 3) St Mark's and its vestry must balance all of those goals – beautiful liturgy in magnificent historic surroundings, learning opportunities which truly enlighten and challenge us, outreach in the downtown area and broader community to meet real needs, and radical hospitality to all who are served in these ways. 4) I joined St Mark's about five years ago,

after returning to San Antonio following many years of working on the east and west coasts. I was initially drawn by the beauty and history of the church, but what has made me an enthusiastic member are the people of St. Mark's and their warm welcome.

Check Your Parish Life Handbook and eNews for more information on events. Available for pick up at church.

Upcoming Events

10/2	5.00pm Blessing of the Animals and reading of <i>Geraldine the Holstein</i>	11/1	7.00pm Vespers for the Feast of All Saints
10/9	5.00pm Second Sunday Choral Evensong + Eucharist	11/6	10.10am Parish Meeting
10/12	1.00pm Senior Tea	11/11	Live radio broadcast of St. Mark's choirs
10/12	6.00pm New Connections, Part I	11/13	Stewardship Ingathering during services 5.00pm Second Sunday: Remembrance Day
10/26	6.00pm Halloween Parade and Blessing of the Costumes	11/27	Advent I: Combined Eucharist at 10.00am, preceded by intergenerational wreath-making at 9.00am

Vestry Nominees

Kelly Ranson

1) I feel called to serve on the vestry because I want to give back to this loving community that has fed me and my family so richly. 2) When I first joined, my children were five and three years old, so for many years my participation was as a choir parent and Youth Group parent. After my daughter was older, I joined the Parish Choir and have been a member for about 14 years. I have also served as usher, Eucharistic Minister and Lector, member of the Music Director Search Committee and Outreach Grant Committee, participant in the Diocesan Recreational Sports League, and in several other ways. I believe all of these experiences will be useful in serving on the vestry, because I have experienced many of the ministries in our parish. I think having been a parent of young children was especially important, because we must be welcoming to young families if we are to grow. 3) I think we are doing an excellent job of this. I see the vestry continuing to provide guidance and support to the ministries of the parish, while encouraging our ministries to prayerfully seek to do an even better job of aligning with our Core Vocation. For example, the Outreach Grant Committee is currently re-imagining how we want to do our work, to work more closely with groups we fund and provide more volunteer opportunities for our members. 4) I first attended St. Mark's in November of 1993 and joined soon thereafter. I was initially drawn to St. Mark's by the excellent programs for children, by the welcoming nature of the community, by the thought-provoking sermons and adult education offerings, and by the beautiful music. I continue to be drawn to St. Mark's because we are truly a Parish Family which is the Body of Christ, wherein we all care for each other and care about the community in which we live.



Chris Villa



1) After 8 years at St. Mark's I feel called to step into a more formal role with the church to help shape and build the future. My wife and I were married here, our two kids were baptized here, and we love being a part of this wonderful community. St. Mark's is a special place that our family is thankful for, so being a part of the vestry is really exciting. 2) Since moving to San Antonio in 2007, I've enjoyed participating in a variety of activities aimed at building several communities. Most recently, I was a part of the St. Mark's Stewardship Committee, which was a great way to experience the diligence and thought put into coordinating a successful giving campaign at the church. Additionally, this year I joined the St. Thomas Episcopal School Board. In this role I help manage the school's financials to help build and maintain a strong, nurturing Episcopal school that our two children, Violet and Will, attend. Having a young family, I look forward to helping St. Mark's continue to be a place where young families connect and thrive. It excites me to think about our kids maturing in the St. Mark's community, so helping make that journey as best as it can be will be a key focus of mine on the vestry. 3) One of the things I love about St. Mark's is that it takes its

Core Vocation very seriously. We're a beautiful downtown church. We're a place we're proud to bring our friends and families. Yet, each one of us rolls up our sleeves and directly gives back to the community in very tangible ways, including teaching our children at Sunday school, feeding the downtown community, or traveling across the world to help people in developing countries. I look forward to continuing to make St. Mark's a place where we leverage our resources to help those in need in a meaningful way. 4) I joined St. Mark's in 2008, after moving to San Antonio from Cleveland, OH with my wife Dell. Three things continue to draw us to this community. First, we love being surrounded – and continually challenged -- by the intelligent, thoughtful, and intellectually curious people St. Mark's attracts. This church is a stimulating environment full of people who are hungry to learn, discern, and teach – every moment we spend here is a moment we grow. Second, we love the fact that the individuals who have self-selected into this wonderful community are an incredibly diverse cross-section. Truly special people are drawn to St. Mark's, and they are people we probably wouldn't meet any other way! Third, we admire, respect (and really enjoy!) the Church leadership team. Thoughtful steering and careful discernment make a community like ours successful -- and powerful in the lives of members -- and we have extraordinary leaders in Beth, Carol, and Matt.

Pie Tasting, Annual Report, and Stewardship Video Finale

The Parish Meeting on Sunday, November 6 is a time we come together to hear from our clergy and lay leadership about our life together at St. Mark's.....where we've been and where we're doing something new.

Pies

While we pack a lot into 50 minutes at 10.10am, we do it in classic St. Mark's style.....with hospitality! Yes, our pie tasting is back courtesy of Kitchen Ministries. So be sure to pick out your favorites for you upcoming parties and family gatherings. Leah Thomas will be on hand to take orders. The order form can also be found online at www.stmarks-sa.org. Go to Ministries / Kitchen Ministries. You'll be supporting our hospitality ministry and simplifying your holiday planning at the same time!

Annual Report and Video Finale

The Annual Report will be distributed during the Parish Meeting which will also feature to stewardship video finale, the forth in a series that gives you an opportunity to hear from many of your friends and fellow parishioners about why they give to St. Mark's.



Financials

Make gifts toward your pledge at www.stmarks-sa.org, click on the Give menu; or make your gift by mail. Contact Priscilla Briones at pbriones@stmarks-sa.org or 210-226-2426 with questions about your giving to date. Contact Dina Aboul Saad at dsaad@stmarks-sa.org or by phone to discuss stewardship, annual and endowment gifts, and planning giving.

2016 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 8/31/16

67% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,206,273	\$1,302,056
Non-Pledge Revenue	\$115,677	\$104,006
Open Plate/Seasonal Giving	\$25,528	\$24,258
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$315,080	\$295,242
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$264,720	\$213,903
Total Revenue	\$1,927,276	\$1,939,466
Total Expenses	\$1,745,553	\$1,797,894
Over/(Under)	\$181,724	\$141,572

\$1,614,071 in 2016 Pledges • 326 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$4,951 • Median Pledge is \$2,620

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

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

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

Outreach Grant Spotlight

Threads Of Blessing

Volunteers at Threads of Blessing create large commissioned embroidered wallhangings, and all of the proceeds from their sales are used to fund embroidery workshops in Uganda, Haiti, and Honduras. The women who attend these workshops learn to create embroidered pieces to sell, and when those items are sold, all of the proceeds are given to that particular woman and community.

This organization really impressed us as a warm, caring environment and we are confident that good work is being done in this community. The organization does an equal amount of good work for its volunteers here as it does for the ladies attending their workshops in other countries - since the community they've formed is so strong. Ladies who may be older, retired or homebound find new friendships and a sense of purpose within this highly creative activity. There is no age limit to creativity, with stitchers in their 90's contributing beautiful pieces. Volunteers of every age are welcome.

Threads of Blessing has planted seeds in the numerous third-world countries they've visited. This is quite evident in Uganda where the locals have created their own business enterprises based on the basic embroidery skills they learned 20 years ago when Threads of Blessing first visited with them. They have created other groups, ideas, and taken on the task of making the work they do a viable source of monies for their community. Threads of Blessing has also begun workshops in Haiti, giving local women the ability to become bread-winners for their families, thanks to the proceeds they receive for completed embroidered pieces.

Money donated to Threads of Blessing goes directly into scholarships for their embroidery workshops. The cost for scholarships is low - just \$75 will pay for 4 days of room and board and bus transportation for each woman.

The grant awarded to the group by St. Mark's will directly benefit the lives of a large number of women, both here, and in other parts of the world. Threads of Blessing is enriching the lives of women around the world with creativity, and it is a blessing to be a part of their work.

-- Submitted by Flor Hernadez, Co-Chair of Outreach Grants Committee



Homecoming Sunday

If you missed Homecoming Sunday on August 28, here's a peek! Also if you haven't yet picked up your Parish Life Handbook, you can pick one up in the bell tower adjacent to the Narthex and in the Parish House. We've printed plenty, so give them to your friends and neighbors too! This is a great way to share the many opportunities to engage at St. Mark's in worship, in formation, and in fellowship.





In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru September 21, 2016)

Memorial Fund

Sally Buchanan & Dr. & Mrs. John L. Matthews by Eleanor S. Jordan
Pat Butler by Norma & Raymond Baird, Amy & David Phipps
Julie Carnahan by Judy Cavender, Flora Crichton, Joyce & John Lee, Cynthia McMurray – the Fenwick Club, Camilla & Bill Parker, Mary & Al Philip, Clay Rutherford, Marianne & Craig Wyman
Jimmy Cavender by Linda & Stephen Blount, Reagan Houston
Ross & Sandra Chalk by Richard & Leslie Bardon, James & Sharon Norman, Anne Marie & Dave Wakefield, Mary & Doug Earle, Matthew & Kait Gish
Colleen Goff by Susan & Kenny Nichol
Tom L. Harding by Carolyn Klebaum
Welda Hissner by Sumner Bowen, Berthica Andrea & Hugh Fitzsimons, Jr., Zelime & John Matthews, George & Polly Spencer
Rupert Gresham by Joyce & John Lee
Jean Preis by Richard & Nancy Dugger, Polly & George Spencer, Jr.

St. Cecilia Guild

Julie Carnahan by Ann Coiner
Ross & Sandra Chalk by John Tarr & Robert Tisdal
Welda Hissner by Ann Coiner

Tucker Courtyard

Kieth Brown by Robert & Anne Tucker

Special Gifts

To St. Mark's Youth Fund in thanksgiving for Margaret & Miller Raney by Alice Haney
To Beth Knowlton's Discretionary Fund in honor of Bill & Kathy Wassberg by Ellen Dickson

Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

OCTOBER 5-6
Beef Enchiladas
Mexican Rice
Charro Beans
Garden Salad
Tres Leches Cake

OCTOBER 12-13
Chicken Spaghetti
Broccoli
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread Sticks

OCTOBER 19-20
Beef Bourguignon with Noodles
Sautéed Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Dinner Rolls
Apple Turnovers

OCTOBER 26-27
Cheeseburgers Sliders
Tater Tots
Garden Salad
Apple Turnovers

NOVEMBER 2-3
Roasted Chicken
Sweet Corn
Mac & Cheese
Tossed Salad
Brownies

NOVEMBER 9-10
Spaghetti & Meatballs
Sautéed Green Beans
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread Sticks
Italian Cream Cake

NOVEMBER 16-17
Turkey & Dressing
Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans Amandine
Tossed Salad, Pie

NOVEMBER 30 -
DECEMBER 1
Chicken Chalupas
Mexican Rice, Green Beans
Chips & Salsa, Praline Cake

Photos in this Issue

Cover photo: DC Youth Tour (Charlie's Place at St. Margaret's Episcopal) by Todd Allison
Photos in this issue provided by: Ansen Seale, Barbara Digby, Eric Nelson, Rachel Doyle, Todd Allison

**Cafe Kairos
closed week of
Thanksgiving**