



The Messenger

from St. Mark's

December 2017/January 2018

Advent Offerings

Epiphany

Alamo Baroque Festival

Armor of Light

“Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

- Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

While every year brings challenges to our hopes and expectations, this past fall has felt like it carries more than its fair share. There has been an onslaught of tragedy. Natural disasters, unspeakable violence, and painful revelations around the nature of power and its influence on our behavior. At times it has seemed like an extra dose of darkness. As I've continued to reflect on the state of our world, I keep coming back to our invitation to Christian hope. So, I'm more drawn this year to themes of Advent than ever.

Advent invites us to think about a spiritual discipline that claims the power of light. As the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent invites us, we can literally cloth ourselves in the armor of light. We can have a discipline which reminds us to not give way to the power of despair and that invites us away from a quick consumeristic fix for that which feels empty inside of us. The best way I know to accomplish the adherence to light is to gather in community.

Luckily, St. Mark's has developed a wonderful rhythm the past few years of having a combined worship service along with an intergenerational offering each Sunday during the season of Advent. It brings an opportunity to carve out a morning to claim the power of light with your St. Mark's family. Whether it's creating an Advent wreath, attending the Advent Quiet Day, following the journey of the Holy Family as they seek lodging, gathering to see the story of Christmas in pageant and live animals, or attending our annual Lessons and Carols service, you can decide to join us and claim the power of light.

We also have a new opportunity to bear that light more fully in our beloved city. The HEB City Christmas Tree will adorn Travis Park this year. We will participate in the annual tree lighting and then have the opportunity throughout the month to offer hospitality to those who will visit the park. We are offering a Christmas Pops concert again this year, and hope that this may bring new people to know us and the love we bear in the name of Christ. As you ponder how to engage this holy season, I hope you will see it as a way to intentionally claim your role as a light bearer in the world; it is something our world desperately needs. Christ has been born and will be born again. And we are called to shine a light on the hope that it brings to all.

Peace,



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

Christmas Eve December 24

3.45pm Prelude, 4.00pm
Holy Eucharist

7.00pm Holy Eucharist with
St. Mark's Choir

10.00pm Prelude, 10.30pm
Holy Eucharist with St. Mark's
Choir (with incense)

Christmas Day December 25

One Combined Holy
Eucharist at 10.00am

First Sunday After Christmas December 31

One Combined Holy
Eucharist at 10.00am

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Adult Formation

The Rector's Forum: The Revelation of the Word of God in the Body, Epiphany 2017

The Rev. Beth Knowlton and The Rev. Mary Earle

Class meets: January 14 - February 11

While we acknowledge the centrality of the incarnation in our faith, we do not always translate that into an awareness of the way our human experience is impacted by the body in which we abide, and the corporate bodies in which we participate. Theologian Sally McFague has wryly observed, "The most prevalent spiritual disease of our time is not wanting to be here, not wanting to be in a body." Together we will explore the mystery of embodied life, with all of the inherent tensions, joys, and sufferings. We will reflect on the body as God's own divine handiwork, as the vehicle for relationship and community. As scripture scholar Luke Timothy Johnson has written, "My body is not the exception to the world, it is the rule; it is not separate from the world, it is the world in concentrated form." Join us as we explore the personal, relational, and ethical wisdom of the body as sacrament of the life of the Risen Christ, dwelling in us here, now, and always.

Confirmation

Adult Confirmation

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

Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation class will be held on Wednesday evenings January 17, 31, February 21, 28, March 7, 21, April 11, and 18 from 6.30-8.00pm. Each class builds on the previous class, so plan to attend every session. We will also gather at the Bishop Jones Center on Saturday, April 14 from 9.00am-2.00pm, where we will share a meal, meet the bishop, and cover some additional ground. The class is open all those seeking to be confirmed, received, or who would like a refresher. Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 29 at the 11.15am service. For more information, contact Rachel Dugger at rdugger@stmarks-sa.org.

Youth Confirmation

Led by The Rev. Carol Morehead and The Rev. Matt Wise

Youth Confirmation is for 8th graders and any high school students who would like to be confirmed. The class will meet for 12 weeks throughout the winter and spring during the 10.10am formation hour. The Rev. Carol Morehead and The Rev. Matt Wise will teach and lead conversations on topics including: church history, the sacraments, becoming a young adult, the community of the church, and living a life of faith. Students are allowed to miss only two classes. Class dates are as follows: January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, April 8, 15, and 22. Students will be expected to participate in the Day of Prayer and Service on Sunday, March 18 and in a dinner with the Bishop during the week prior to confirmation. Confirmation will be held on the Feast of St. Mark Celebration Sunday during the 9.00am Eucharist on Sunday, April 29. For more information, please contact Meredith Rogers at mrogers@stmarks-sa.org.

New Connections

This program is designed especially for people new to St. Mark's and for those who are considering whether to become a member of the community. It's an opportunity to get to know one another as well as provide you with a clearer picture of how to connect at St. Mark's. We will begin with an optional Docent tour of the church at 5.45pm, followed by dinner and conversation at 6.00pm with clergy and staff of St. Mark's. The next date is January 24. Contact Dina Aboul Saad for more information at dsaad@stmarks-sa.org.

Adult Track 2: Daring Greatly: Showing Up, Being Seen, and Living Brave


The Rev. Matt Wise

Class meets: January 14 - February 4

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly..." (Theodore Roosevelt, April, 23, 1910).

Using the work of shame researcher (and Episcopalian), Brené Brown, this four-week class will explore the difficult but necessary practice of vulnerability to live the fullest lives God dreams for us. Through discussions around shame, courage, and the importance of community, we will discover what it means to show up, to be seen, and to live bravely.



January 8-13, 2018 brings an exciting new event to St. Mark's and the city of San Antonio. We are hosting the first Alamo Baroque Festival, as an official tricentenary event .

This festival will bring world renown leading early music artists to St. Mark's for the week-long series of master classes, concerts, and community outreach.

Festival Faculty will be working with the San Antonio Symphony, David Crockett Elementary 6th graders, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, and Children's Chorus of San Antonio.

There is an opportunity for private instruction from the String Faculty. Any and all levels are welcome to sign-up online.

Festival Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| January 10, 10.30am | Public Concert: Festival Faculty in Alamo Plaza |
| January 11, 11.00am | Panel Discussion at Trinity University: Join us for a panel discussion with our guest artists and Dr Richard Butler. Nathan Cone of TPR will moderate. Topics of discussion include 'Why baroque music?', career highlights, classical music in a 21st century world, the future of early music in San Antonio. Free and open to the public. Location on Trinity campus TBA. |
| January 11, 7.00-9.00pm | Faculty Concert at St. Mark's: A World Tour of the Baroque complete with repertoire from England, France, Germany, Spain including verbal program notes from Faculty. Free Public Concert and Parking. Official Tricentennial Event. |
| January 13, 3.00-4.00pm | Concert Finale: Repertoire includes Zadok the Priest (G. F. Handel), Welcome to All Pleasures (Henry Purcell), and Dixit Dominus (Handel). Free Public Concert and Parking. Official Tricentennial Event. |

For a full list of events, visit AlamoBaroqueFestival.org.

Festival Faculty



Alex Ashworth



Margaret Faultless



Jacqueline Horner- Kwiatek

Music from St. Mark's

DECEMBER 10
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 16
SATURDAY,
5.00PM

CHRISTMAS POPS WITH ORCHESTRA

A festive evening of music for the entire family. Highlights include Tchaikovsky *Nutcracker Suite*; Leroy Anderson *Sleigh Ride*; *Frosty the Snowman*; and *'Twas the night before Christmas*. *Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild and the Carter family.*

JANUARY 8-13

ALAMO BAROQUE FESTIVAL

For more information visit, www.alamobarquefestival.org



Festival Faculty (cont.)



Paul Phoenix



Elizabeth Reed



Robin Tyson

Advent Offerings

The Peace That Passes All Understanding: An Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 2, 9.30am-2.00pm
Los Patios, Tienda Room
Led by The Rev. Beth Knowlton

In our busy lives, it can be difficult to feel a sense of peace as we engage in our daily life. Silence invites us to quiet the many voices that may serve to keep us in a state of anxiety or worry. Join us for this day of reflection and quiet. Using scripture, poetry, and art images, we will cultivate a deeper understanding of God's ability to gift us with a deeper indwelling of interior peace that is not dependent on the external pressures that are often in control. All are welcome. Lunch is provided, please reserve a spot by 11/30/2017 by calling the office 210-226-2426.



Sundays in Advent

Starting December 3

Morning worship services will be held at 7.45am and 10.00am every Sunday in Advent.

Programs begin at 9.00am in Gosnell Hall preceding the combined worship service at 10.00am. Breakfast will be provided.

Advent I Wreath-Making with teaching

We'll gather in Gosnell Hall at 9.00am to create our wreaths. The Rev. Matt Wise will lead us through prayers and readings for lighting your Advent Wreath. Each household will have the opportunity to create their own wreath.

Advent II Las Posadas

We'll gather in the Church at 9.00am to participate in this 400-year-old Mexican tradition. As we sing songs and parade through the church and the parish house, we'll re-enact Mary and Joseph's search for "posada" (lodging or accommodation) - a place to rest and to birth the coming baby Jesus. We "peregrinos" (pilgrims) will find our journey's end in Gosnell hall in a joyful celebration with food and a piñata.

Advent III Christmas Pageant and Living Nativity

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be performed by the children at 9.00am in Gish Hall. Following the pageant, live animals including goats, ducks, sheep, and the famous "Seth the Donkey" will help us create our own living nativity - a great opportunity for families to take pictures and videos and to enjoy meeting the animals.

Advent IV Congregational Advent Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

Join us for a 10.00am combined morning service at which we will expectantly sing of the coming of Christ.

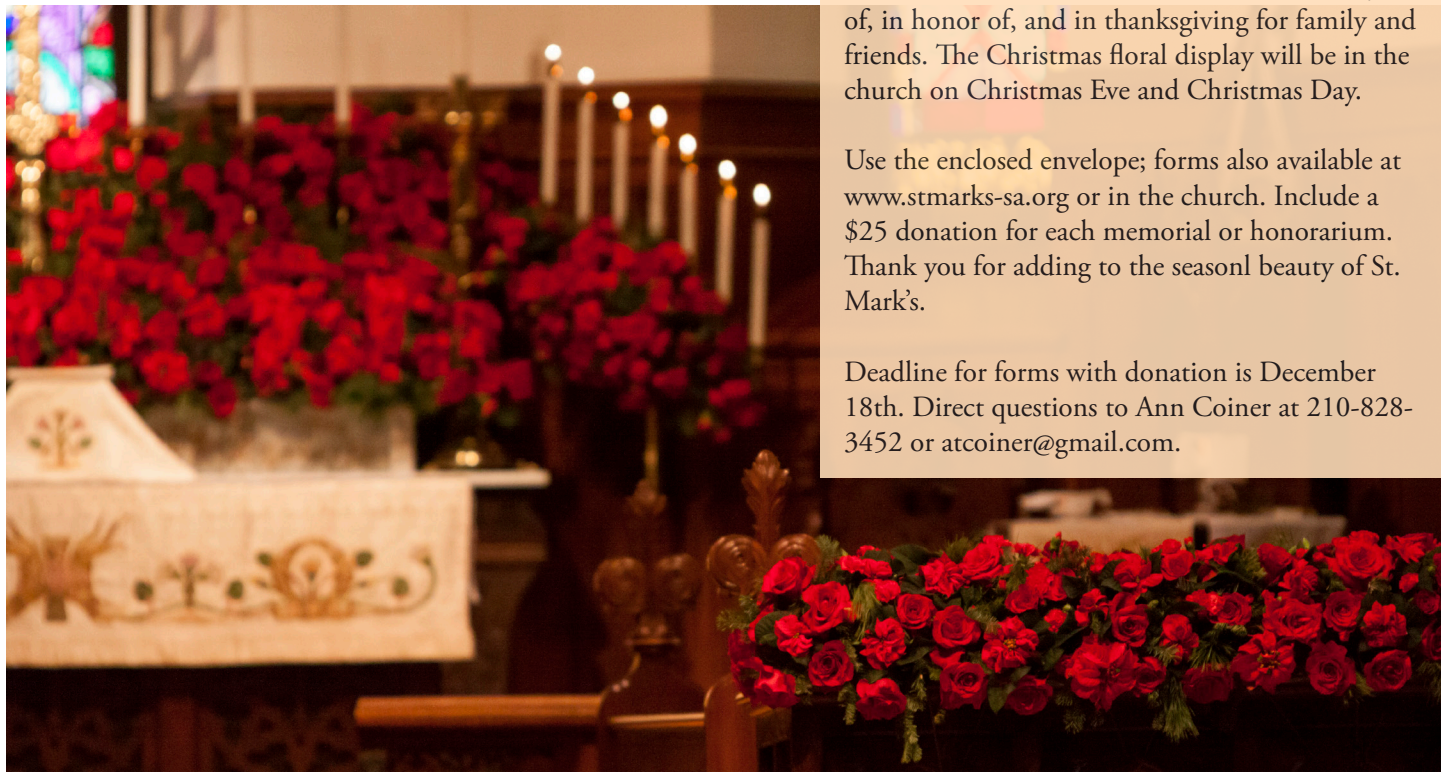


Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday, December 16
3.30pm in Gish Hall

If you would like for your child to participate in the Christmas Pageant, please contact Joe Causby (jcausby@stmarks-sa.org).

Christmas Flowers



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

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

Deadline for forms with donation is December 18th. Direct questions to Ann Coiner at 210-828-3452 or atcoiner@gmail.com.

Women's Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 6

11.30am-1.30pm at the home of Kelly Cavender

This come and go luncheon is a time of joy and reconnection for the women of St. Mark's. All are welcome. Childcare is available at the church from 11.00am-2.00pm. To RSVP, please call the office at 210-226-2426 or email Rachel Dugger (rdugger@stmarks-sa.org) by December 1.

Christmas to the Street

Saturday, December 9

Christmas to the Street provides a home-cooked meal of brisket and sausage with all the fixin's to hundreds of our neighbors in downtown San Antonio. The Youth Lock-In and BBQ Pit Crew volunteers begin to prepare to feed San Antonio the evening of December 8 at St. Mark's. In addition to the 500 lunches served by our youth and volunteers in Gosnell Hall, we also give the amazing cooks at Haven for Hope a break by serving 650 meals in partnership with St. Vincent De Paul to those living on the Transformational Campus, serving 600 meals in conjunction with the San Antonio Food Bank to those living in the courtyard of H4H, and finally by supplying 250 sandwich bags to be given as supplementary meal to the hungry men, women, and children of San Antonio. If you would like to volunteer at St. Mark's, Haven for Hope, or on the food delivery team, contact Meredith Rogers (mrogers@stmarks-sa.org).



Epiphany

An epiphany is a sudden moment of realization, a kind of 'a-ha' about life. In the life of the Church, the season that follows Christmas begins with the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6, when we remember that wonderful moment of realization of the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. We recall the wise ones who come to adore the newborn child, traveling far and bearing precious gifts. An ancient way to mark this Feast is to chalk one's home. It is a simple thing to do. Taking chalk and going out to the main entrance of the house, simply mark the doorway thus: "20 † C † M † B † 18". This can be written horizontally across the top lintel or vertically along the side or on the door itself. The numbers refer to the calendar year (20 and 18 for the year 2018); the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), and they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, "May Christ Bless this House." Why not take a few moments with your family and chalk your home? Say the words, May Christ Bless this House, and thank God for the revelation of Christ that comes to us each year. Leave the chalk there to serve as a daily reminder of God's abiding presence and grace.



The Rev. Carol Morehead

At St. Mark's, we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on the Sunday after Epiphany. That Sunday, January 7, we will have several opportunities to enter into this time of revelation. At 9.00am and 11.15am, we will have the opportunity to welcome new members into our community through baptism, and we will renew our own baptismal covenant. During the 10.10am formation hour, we will gather together in Gosnell Hall for the annual Daughters of the King Epiphany Baby Shower, where we collect resources to share with mothers in need. This year we will also collect coats for the children of Crockett Elementary as part of our partnership with Communities in Schools.



The liturgical season that falls after The Feast of the Epiphany is a time when we open ourselves for God to be revealed through the Incarnation in the life of Jesus Christ. Just as the Magi followed the star and discovered The Christ Child, so we are invited to experience Jesus Christ anew, allowing us to be stirred and awakened to the new things God is doing in our midst. This season can be very short or very long, depending on when Lent begins; this year, it will include the seven Sundays between January 7 and February 11. Look for ways to remember the 'a-ha' moments that God has given you each Sunday during the season after the Epiphany.

Daughters of the King Epiphany Baby Shower

The St. Mark's Chapter of the Daughters of the King will host the annual Epiphany Baby Shower on Sunday, January 7 at 10.10am in Gosnell Hall. In the tradition of the Magi, bring a bagged or wrapped gift to celebrate. All baby and toddler gifts will be donated to Good Samaritan Community Services.

Items requested: diapers (sizes 3 and higher), pull-ups, new infant and toddler clothing (3mo.-5T), baby wipes, blankets, baby toiletries, and sleeper/PJ's. Cash donations for formula are welcome.

We are also collecting new or very gently used coats for the children at Crockett Elementary School. Coats to fit students from pre-K to 5th grade are requested.

If you have any questions, contact Denise Dahm by email dahmdr@gmail.com or by phone 210-863-4691.

Blessing of the Animals and Costumes



Annual Parish Meeting

We had a great turn out for our Annual Parish Meeting on November 5 with over 200 people in attendance. We tasted pies, heard from our clergy and leaders, and elected the Vestry Class of 2020.

Our Senior Warden, Robert Pollom, spoke to us about the demographics within a two-mile radius of St. Mark's. About 1.3% of the 60,000 people identify themselves as Episcopalian/Anglican and 30% answered none/spiritual but not religious. Robert shared that he hopes we continue to reach out to that 30% in different and creative ways outside the walls of St. Mark's.

Craig Stokes, 2015 Junior Warden, introduced a new Vestry slate process during the meeting. He and Cathy Dawson were asked by the Rector to review the Vestry nomination process. They formed a committee with Beverly Bryars and Bill Smith, past wardens. The committee made these observations:

- Unsuccessful nominees are not willing to run again.
- The current Vestry process favors members with longer history at St. Mark's, limiting service by younger members who have needed skills/expertise.
- The Parish Meeting is not a comprehensive representation of parish.

The committee recommended a new process to the Vestry, which was approved unanimously. This new process will start with the past and current Senior Wardens seeking at least 15 people to serve on the Vestry Discernment Committee. We will begin accepting names for this committee in February. In April, the committee will be announced, and they will ask for nominees to serve on Vestry. Over the summer, the committee will vet the nominees and go out two-by-two to meet with nominees. Once five nominees are identified, in the fall, the slate will be presented to the Vestry for approval. We are using a very similar model to that used by the Rector Search Committee so that it will be more representative of the parish. If you have any questions, The Rev. Beth Knowlton, Craig Stokes, and Robert Pollom will be holding an informational session on January 31, 2018, in Gosnell Hall at 6.00pm. Thank you to Craig, Cathy, Beverly, and Bill for all your hard work and time.

Vestry Election Results

Our thanks go to all who offered themselves for Vestry election this year. The 2020 class is pictured below.



Gene Alderman



Ann Leafstedt



Greg Merritt



David Ross



Ralph Voight

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

Vestry Slate Informational

Wednesday, January 31
6.00pm in Gosnell Hall

24 hour pastoral care
emergency phone
210-507-0256



We are in the process of developing our budget for 2018 based largely on your pledges and intentions. Thank you for remembering St. Mark's in your giving plans.

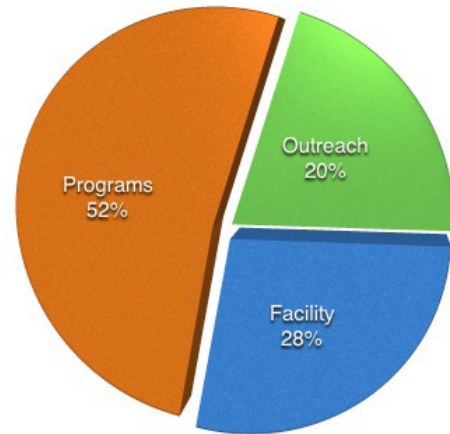
Your pledges and gifts make our aspirations possible.

Our budget is a planning document that reflects an investment in the programs and activities that equip us and enhance our capacity to serve our members and the San Antonio community.

Mail in your pledge cards to the church or go online at www.stmarks-sa.org/give.

20% of our budget is spent on outreach through our new Bread of Life and Vocational grants; high impact partnerships with GSAM, SAMM, CAM, and St. Paul's Montessori; Christmas to the Street; Haven for Hope feeding ministry; Habitat for Humanity; walk-in assistance; and Diocesan support used to support smaller parishes, Camp Capers, Mustang Island Conference Center, Duncan Park, college ministry, and various outreach efforts. We seek to continue this strong commitment in 2018.

How We Allocate the Church Pie



2017 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 10/31/2017

83.33% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,389,267	\$1,496,625
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$180,190	\$210,000
Seasonal Giving	\$10,339	\$10,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$375,589	\$360,398
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$294,461	\$310,561
Total Revenue	\$2,249,846	\$2,387,584
Total Expenses	\$2,123,360	\$2,300,506
Over/(Under)	\$126,485	\$87,078

\$1,672,270 in 2017 Pledges • 319 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,242 • Median Pledge is \$2,700



In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru November 13, 2017)

MEMORIALS

Minerva Briones by Jill and George Vassar
Corky Carnahan by Sally and Rhew Dooley, Laura and Weir LaBatt, Betsy and David Simpson

ST. CECILIA GUILD

Marie Causby by Ann Coiner, Deems and Bill Smith

TUCKER COURTYARD

Jim Donnell by Anne and Robert Tucker

SPECIAL GIFTS

To St. Mark's in **celebration of the baptism of Sophia Silva** by Polly and George Spencer
To St. Mark's in **celebration of the baptism of Leigh Carroll Brooks** by Polly and George Spencer
To the St. Cecilia Guild in **honor of Tookie Spoor on her birthday** by Molly and Dan Webster
To the St. Cecilia Guild in **honor of Dean Glass and Robbie Moore** by Ann Coiner
To Disaster Relief in **honor of Marilyn Middleton** by Centro Properties

Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

Cost: \$8.00 adults | \$6.00 children (under 6 yrs old) - No Cafe Kairos December 27-28, January 2-3

DECEMBER 6-7

Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce
Sautéed Green Beans
Garlic Bread Sticks
Garden Salad
Cookies

DECEMBER 13-14

King Ranch Chicken
Charro Beans
Chips & Salsa
Garden Salad
Brownies

DECEMBER 20-21

Tamales with Chili Con Carne
Spanish Rice
Beans
Garden Salad
Bunuelos

JANUARY 10-11

Traditional Lasagna
Sautéed Green Beans
Garlic Bread Sticks
Garden Salad
Chocolate Pudding

JANUARY 17-18

Roasted Chicken
Mac & Cheese
Sautéed Broccoli
Yeast Rolls
Cookies

JANUARY 24-25

Chicken Enchiladas
Spanish Rice
Charro Beans
Garden Salad
Tres Leches Cake

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Sautéed Green Beans
Garlic Bread Sticks
Garden Salad
Cake

Photos in this Issue

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Photos in this issue provided by: Cindy Clancey, Rachel Doyle, Eric Nelson, Patrice Oliver