



The Messenger

from St. Mark's

February/March 2018

Lenten Offerings

Holy Week and Easter

Christmas to the Street Reflection

Paschal Mystery and the Seasons that Form Us

The rhythms of our common life this time of year are always somewhat dependent on the date of Easter Sunday. If you are interested in understanding the lunar calculations involved, I invite you to turn to page fifteen of the Book of Common Prayer. Actually, to save you the trouble, “Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21. It cannot occur before March 22 or after April 25.”

The communal reality of this calculation though is a varied season of Epiphany and an ever-changing date for our busiest time of the year. Some years we have a lovely Epiphany season when we can enter more deeply into a reflection on the light and manifestation of Christ’s presence. Other years we have barely caught our breath when we are suddenly at Ash Wednesday services. This year we will have a cultural clash as we have a reminder of our mortality placed on our foreheads on Valentine’s Day and Easter is on April Fool’s Day. Sometimes I find this every shifting landscape to be frustrating, but this year it feels like a new invitation to allow the rhythms of the community to form our experience rather than the date on the calendar.



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

We have developed some wonderful foundations in our Lenten and Holy Week practices. This year they will have a chance to take root even more fully. We will continue to expand our reach into Travis Park with another offering of Music in the Park during the lunch hour on Wednesdays during Lent. We will again have a Day of Prayer and Service on the last Sunday of Lent. Our preparation for Holy Week will begin by serving in our city and reminding ourselves of our call to bear a presence of God’s life and light in the world.

As we enter into Holy Week, we will go from Palm Sunday, to Maundy Thursday, to Good Friday, to Holy Saturday, to gathering around the new fire at the Easter Vigil. Once again, we will pray in simplified ways and ask ourselves what we might be asked to relinquish to become more present to God’s call in our life. On Easter, we will baptize new members into the faith. If you have never made attending those mid-week liturgies a priority, I’d really like to encourage you to do so. One of the main things that made me join the Episcopal Church was these special liturgies. Easter joy is only more profound when you have walked the last days Jesus spent with those he loves the most.

I am so grateful for those who work so diligently to make our community life possible. On the worship side, the choirs, the altar guild, the readers, the eucharistic ministers, the acolytes, our associate clergy, all play a part. Our Lenten offerings bring countless people forward with a love of service and community participation. Behind the scenes our amazing staff puts in countless hours to makes these services, community efforts, and times of gathering appear “effortless.” New life and resurrection is not limited to Easter Sunday. It begins each time we approach the altar and open our hands to receive the Body of Christ. Blessings in this holy season.

Peace,

New Wardens

St. Mark’s is delighted to announce the appointments of Paul Allen as Senior Warden and Jan Briley as Junior Warden. Going forward, the Wardens will serve two-year terms, to provide more continuity. The terms will be overlapping, so each calendar year one of the wardens will be entering their first year of service, while the the other will be starting their second. Please join us in thanking them for agreeing to serve.

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Lent

Lent is a season of reflection, a time to shine the light of Christ into our lives and to consider those things that have kept us from being one with God and with one another. This season of 40 days is like a tithe of the days of a year; it is one way of giving ourselves back to God. Each day in Lent is an invitation to ancient spiritual practices which have illumined and guided the paths of Christians along the way. These disciplines of prayer, contemplation, and meditation; of fasting; and of almsgiving, invite the Holy Spirit to be present anew in our lives, opening our eyes to God's presence in and through us.

We enter into this season on Ash Wednesday, when we remember our own human frailty, our finitude, and our need for God's love and forgiveness. When we have ashes spread on our forehead in the sign of the cross and hear the words, *Remember that you are dust, and to dust shall you return*, we enter a time of penitence, of reflecting on our limitations, on giving ourselves, again, to God's care and direction.

Lent is a time for confession – admitting to ourselves, and perhaps to another, that we do indeed fall short and turn away from God, from who we are created and called to be. It is a time when we are invited to practice the Rite of Reconciliation, which is the Episcopal Church's form of Confession. All three clergy are available to hear confession; contact them directly if you would like to schedule a time to do so. A preparation for the Rite of Reconciliation is available on the St. Mark's website.

Each week in our liturgy, too, we find our normal rhythms changed: different music, different words, different colors, and a different posture as we are called to kneel more in the service. All of this wakes us up to the deep call to return to God, as we are prone to wander. When we feel uncertain or even unhappy about differences, **listen**. See if God's Spirit is calling you to see with new eyes, to look inward and find who God has truly made you to be: beloved.

Toward the end of Lent, we will observe a Day of Prayer and Service on March 18. Together, we will worship at 10.00am, followed by a common meal, and then work in our community. Sign-ups for work locations will be available on the St. Mark's website beginning February 20.

Read, reflect, and pray each day in order to be brought closer to the heart of God and know God's grace and mercy which is always available for us, if we can return to God's loving embrace. Pray this ancient prayer of St. Julian of Norwich:

*In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation
and our bliss.*

*In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.
You are our mother, brother, and Saviour.*

*In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvellous
and plenteous grace.*

*You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.
You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.*

*Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well,
and all shall be well,
and all manner of things shall be well. Amen*



The Rev. Carol Morehead

Lenten Quiet Day: Afraid of the Dark

Saturday, February 17, 9.30am – 2.00pm

Facilitated by The Rev. Matt Wise
Bishop Jones Center

Since childhood, we've all been afraid of the dark. The darkness has simply taken different forms - loss, loneliness, change, the unknown, pain, and grief. Our fear of the dark has prevented us from the fullness of life that God dreams for us even in the midst of the darkness. Using music, art, and scripture, we will spend the day reckoning with our fears and exploring practices to experience God's presence alongside us in the dark.

All are welcome. Lunch is provided, please reserve a spot by February 15 by completing a form on the Sign Ups/Reservations page of the website.

Shrove Tuesday Talent Show

Tuesday, February 13
5.30pm Dinner, 6.00pm Talent Show

This event is one of the social highlights of the year! Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your talents and have lots of fun with fellow parishioners. Bring your family and friends. If you have an act you'd like to share, we want to hear from you. Contact Meredith Rogers at mrogers@stmarks-sa.org.



Formation During Lent

The Rector's Forum: Discerning the Word of God: The Prophetic Task of Engaging Reality, Grief, and Hope, Lent 2018

The Rev. Beth Knowlton and The Rev. Dr. John Lewis
Class meets: February 18 – March 11

This four-week Lenten class, using themes from Walter Brueggemann's book, *Reality, Grief, and Hope—Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*, will help us look at our cultural current context and our calling as Christians. ***The Word of God being Living and Active*** means we need to engage in the context in which we have been placed. We need to be willing to challenge cultural assumptions through the lens of God's promises and our obedience. The process of seeing the world as it is, allows us to name our grief in areas where it has fallen short of God's vision. This is not to leave us despondent, but to move us towards a more genuine expression of faithful hope.

Adult Track 2: Eucharistic Instruction

The Rev. Carol Morehead and The Rev. Matt Wise
Class meets: February 18 – March 11

Designed especially for 2nd and 3rd graders and their families, this class dives into the rhythms and meaning of the Holy Eucharist. Classes include looking at different parts of the service, handling the holy hardware, making bread, and understanding the sacred space. Designed to be hands-on, the class invites these young people to be active participants on Sundays.

Gethsemane Prayer Vigil

As part of experiencing Holy Week, we invite you to join in as we hold Vigil with the reserve sacraments overnight before Good Friday. One hour slots are available beginning at 9.00pm on Maunday Thursday, March 29. We invite 2-4 people for each time slot. The Gethsemane Prayer Vigil will be in Bethlehem Chapel, and the gate from Jefferson Street will remain open overnight. We will have security present overnight as well.

As you pray and wait, we will have a table with resources to aid in your prayer time. Feel free to bring your own bible or prayer book, or some other resource if you would like. The Vigil will be a time for quiet reflection and meditation. At the end of your shift, others will arrive and continue the Vigil. The Vigil ends at 7.00am with the Good Friday Liturgy. **To sign up for a time slot, go to www.stmarks-sa.org and click on the SignUps/Reservations button.**

Holy Week and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday

- 7.45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9.00am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 10.10am Palm Sunday Festival with live animals
- 11.15am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 5.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols for Passiontide

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday

- 12.00m Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Bethlehem Chapel

Thursday, March 29 - Maundy Thursday

- 7.00pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9.00pm Gethsemane Overnight Prayer Vigil, Bethlehem Chapel

Friday, March 30 - Good Friday

- 7.00am Good Friday Liturgy with Communion from the Reserve Sacrament
- 12.00pm Good Friday Liturgy
- 1.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 31 - Holy Saturday

- 11.00am Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic
- 1.00pm Holy Saturday service

Sunday, April 1 - Easter Day

- 6.00am The Great Vigil, Lighting of the New Fire, Holy Baptism, and First Eucharist of Easter, with incense. Breakfast to follow.
- 9.00am Holy Baptism & Festal Eucharist, Rite II
- 11.15am Holy Baptism & Festal Eucharist, Rite II (with incense)



Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic

Saturday, March 31
11.00am-1.00pm
Bishop Jones Center

We hope everyone will join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and picnic! We will begin by listening to the Easter story, then follow the Easter Bunny to hunt for eggs, and finally we will enjoy a picnic lunch and time to visit with each other. Face painting and balloon artists will be available throughout the event. Don't forget to bring a picnic blanket or chairs.

Donations of candy without nuts or chocolate and/or plastic eggs are greatly appreciated! Please place these donations in the boxes located on the first floor of the Parish House from March 11 - March 21.

Music in the Park



As a response to the wonderful energy and excitement last year, “Music in the Park” will take place again each Wednesday in Lent (February 21 – March 21) from 12.00pm until 1.00pm in Travis Park. You are invited to pick up a soup and biscuit lunch to go from St. Mark’s and walk across Pecan St. into Travis Park where you’ll be serenaded by several of our musical parish members and their talented friends. The line up includes: Men Off Work (Len Briley), Half Past One (Mike Clancey), Rick Cavender Band, Mothership (Albert Steves), and Joe Causby. Musicians will be playing tunes from various musical genres and have been invited to intersperse their music with stories about how they’ve experienced the sacred -- the holy -- the divine in and through their music. We hope you will join us.

Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to help as greeters, biscuit bakers, and soup servers. If you are interested, contact Susan Waltrip at 2susan@sbcglobal.net or Katie McDonough at katesmcd@yahoo.com. Volunteer for one Wednesday or more. All are welcome!

Day of Prayer and Service

Our second Day of Prayer and Service will take place on Sunday, March 18. The day will begin with a combined 10.00am service, an opportunity for us to pray together as a community before we move into the world in fellowship and service. After the service, we will gather in Gosnell Hall for a simple lunch followed by community service opportunities throughout San Antonio. A committee led by Rachel Doyle and Randy Gladden is busy coordinating a variety of opportunities for the day. This day is for families and parishioners of all ages, and there will be volunteer opportunities for all. The day will last from 10.00am until 5.00pm. We are very excited about this invitation to live out our core vocation as we observe Lent together, and we encourage all to participate. Be on the lookout for more details in the Announcements, eNews, and on the website as the event nears.



Music from St. Mark's

FEBRUARY 18
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

ORGAN RECITAL

Joseph Causby, St. Mark's Organist and Choirmaster, performs a concert on our Austin/Kegg Pipe Organ.

FEBRUARY 23
FRIDAY, 5.45PM

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Choirs of St. Mark's sing for the National Conference of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). Reception follows Evensong in Gosnell Hall.
Underwritten by Virginia Theological Seminary.

MARCH 21
WEDNESDAY,
12.00PM

BACH FEST

Beginning at noon, as part of our Lenten Music in the Park, and continuing through the evening, continuous performances of the music of J. S. Bach given by San Antonio area musicians. This celebration marks an international observance of the birth month of Bach.



MARCH 25
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

PASSIONTIDE LESSONS AND CAROLS

A service of readings and music for Holy Week.

APRIL 13
FRIDAY, 7.00PM

THE CHOIR OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY LONDON (UK) IN CONCERT

Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.

APRIL 29
SUNDAY, 7.00PM

FIESTA CONCERT AND OFFICIAL EVENT

The Choirs of St. Mark's and Temple Beth-El join with YOSA in presenting Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*. This concert will take place at Temple Beth-El, located at 211 Belknap 78212. *Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.*

JUNE 10-14

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN MUSICIANS CONFERENCE

www.AnglicanMusicians.org

Easter Flowers



Consider making a contribution to the Altar Flowers Fund for Easter flowers in memory of, in honor of, and in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Use the enclosed envelope; forms also available at www.stmarks-sa.org or envelopes 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 envelopes and online forms with donation is March 26. Direct questions to Ann Coiner at 210-828-3452 or atcoiner@gmail.com.

Christmas to the Street

“The youth, staff, and volunteers of St. Mark’s orchestrated a fantastic event. The young people were helpful, welcoming to the guests, cooperative, and willing. The event was marked with genuine care put into each detail that creates a dining experience unlike any other available to our downtown homeless neighbors.” -Sarah Joe LeMessurier

As I took on the mantle of helping coordinate Christmas to the Street this year, the youth and parish had only spoken highly of the event, telling me about the meticulous care that goes into preparing this meal that would feed over 1,000. A week before Christmas to the Street, we still needed more volunteers, so I sent out a request for more. St. Mark’s responded in the fashion I have come to expect; an overwhelming number of volunteers signed up to fill the need.



Meredith Rogers



I had all of the checklists, schedules, and felt supported for the lock-in as 42 youth arrived on Friday evening. The youth selflessly gave hours of their time to bag 1,250 pickles and onions, 500 hundred blessing bags, and 250 sandwiches. While the youth were hard at work inside, our dedicated men on the Pit Crew, under the leadership of Joel Martin and Gene Alderman, kept vigil outside over 60 plus brisket and 2,000 sausage links for lunch the next day.

We woke up Saturday and began creating a welcoming space in Gosnell Hall by wrapping utensils, making placemats, and setting up a coloring station for kids so that parents could take a break as they ate their meal. Back in the kitchen, parishioners arrived to continue the behind the scenes work of cutting brisket and readying the rest of the “fixins”. It was finally time to open the doors and welcome our homeless neighbors to come in from the cold and take their seats. The youth began to visit each table to welcome and take drink and pie orders. When asked how this meal is different than others they have received, our neighbors replied that this is one of the only meals where they are asked what they want and are served seated. It may be a small thing to those of us who are able to go out and eat, but that little bit of hospitality can go a long way. As the day slowed down, the youth

ate next to our neighbors and the barriers usually holding us apart were no longer there. As we cleaned up from hosting a few hundred within our walls, the next crew, led by Mike Duffey and Pat Bridwell, came in to pack up and serve dinner to over 1,200 folks at the Haven for Hope campus through partnerships with the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and the San Antonio Food Bank. Thank you to the clergy, kitchen staff, Vestry, and parish of St. Mark’s for your continued support of this ministry! With your help we were able to serve 1,500 meals and completed 680 hours of volunteer work. A special thank you to Ruby Merrill who has given so generously of her time and talents to this ministry.

Christmas to the Street



Communities in Schools - Crockett Elementary

Communities in Schools San Antonio (CIS-SA) was chosen as the first Bread of Life Grant recipient. Over the next three years, we are working with this organization at Crockett Elementary School, just 2.5 miles west of St. Mark's, to further the reach of our core vocation.

The inaugural planning team (including myself, Gary Chambers, and John Carr) met throughout the fall with CIS-SA staff to assess their needs and explore opportunities, discerning how St. Mark's could be involved during our first year. With the full support of clergy, staff, and Vestry, we outlined a yearly plan and kicked off our first two events.

For Holiday Happiness (Adopt a Crocketeer), CIS-SA social workers asked 50 children, grades K-6 who were most in need to write out their three greatest wishes. Our generous parishioners came through and adopted all the children in one morning! Individually selected and beautifully wrapped gifts with loving messages were delivered on December 16 to the children by the Crockett team, along with our Rector and several choir members, at a party complete with Santa, Christmas refreshments, and teacher appreciation gifts. (Kudos to John Carr for being the coolest Santa ever.) The children were thrilled to see Santa, and more than one happy child was heard to exclaim, "I got just what I wanted!"



The success of Holiday Happiness accelerated the timetable for the next event, a coat drive. Our thanks to the Daughters of the King for their collaboration on this event. Generous spirits came through once again with 70 coats, topping the 60 requested. All sizes of beautiful, warm coats were delivered during the first week of January, just in time for the sleety cold snap.

Many thanks to all who responded so warmly to Holiday Happiness and the Coat Drive.

2018 brings new opportunities for involvement at Crockett. Family STEM Night will be held January 30. Ten volunteers are needed to help families sign in, staff science stations, and direct families. The Girls Dance Team is looking for a few volunteers to help teach dance after school on Mondays. And "Love to Read" Day will be held in late February. Volunteers will be asked to read a story to classes in the lower grades.

Later in the spring, we hope to help with a garden project, mobile food pantry distribution, and the school talent show. Ongoing opportunities are also available.

Our partnership with Crockett is indeed filled with the Bread of Life. For more information or to volunteer for any of these activities, please email Amy Phipps at adhipps@att.net.

Submitted by Amy Phipps

Clergy at St. Mark's

Parish Clergy: The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton, Rector; The Rev. Carol Morehead, Associate Rector for Liturgy, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care; The Rev. Matthew Wise, Associate Rector for Outreach, Family Ministry, and Parish Life

Making a Gift of Their Service: The Rev. C. Douglas Earle, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Mary Earle, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop; The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop

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

Treasurer's Year End Report

We have finished 2017 in a strong position thanks to your pledge commitments and gifts. Together, we ended the year at 99% of budgeted revenue and 95% of budgeted expenses.

Household pledges and contributions continue to be the most important revenue stream for our community life together, accounting for 61% of our total revenue. We have prepared a 2018 budget that anticipates we receive an additional \$150,000 in pledges. If you haven't pledged yet, please prayerfully consider your participation and support of the programs and formation you enjoy at St. Mark's.



Joey Oliver

We are continuing to seek ways to supplement household giving with other sources of revenue. In 2017, we re-negotiated our parking lot lease agreement, leading to a 45% increase in parking income to the church. Also, the endowment and designated funds continue to be an important part of our overall revenue mix, accounting for 14% (\$407,000) of the 2018 budget. If you would like to discuss your plans for estate giving or are in a position to accelerate your planned gift, please contact Dina Aboul Saad at 210-226-2426 or dsaad@stmarks-sa.org.

2017 Recap	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Pledges and Contributions	\$2,026,000	\$1,965,961	\$-60,039
Other Income	\$779,078	\$822,786	\$43,708
Expenses	\$2,802,792	\$2,657,612	\$-145,180
Net Over/Under	\$2,286	\$131,135	\$128,849

A heartfelt thanks goes to Len Briley, Jim Wilson, and to John McClung (who finishes his term as Treasurer) who rotate off the Finance Committee this spring. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at finance@stmarks-sa.org.

2018 Pledges

Ways to Make your Pledge and Gifts

As of January 19, we've received 273 pledges. That puts us at 91% of our 2018 pledge goal.

- Online at www.stmarks-sa.org/give
- By mail to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 315 E Pecan St., San Antonio, TX 78205
- In the offering plate during services

Contact Priscilla Briones at pbriones@stmarks-sa.org or 210-226-2426 with questions about your giving to date or check online through My Account on the website www.stmarks-sa.org. Contact Dina Aboul Saad at dsaad@stmarks-sa.org or by phone to discuss stewardship, annual and edowment gifts, and planned giving.

Year End Financials

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 12/31/2017

100% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,692,809	\$1,734,000
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$251,469	\$252,000
Seasonal Giving	\$21,683	\$40,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$465,608	\$432,477
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$357,178	\$346,601
Total Revenue	\$2,788,748	\$2,805,078
Total Expenses	\$2,657,612	\$2,802,792
Over/(Under)	\$131,135	\$2,286

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



In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru January 8, 2018)

MEMORIALS

Priscilla Atherton by Mary Margaret Mueller
Jamie Cooper by Joan Borden
Barbara Holder by Hawley Holder
Mark Judson by Donna Bardgett
Paul Parker by Camilla Parker
Timothy Ward by Belinda Morris

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY

Mary Gail Campbell by Paula Butt

ST. CECILIA

Paul Parker by Ann Coiner

SPECIAL GIFTS

To the Garden Fund **in honor of Deems Smith** by Patrice and Joey Oliver

To the Kitchen Fund **in honor of Tookie Spoor** by Patrice and Joey Oliver

To St. Peter's Rockport by Patrice and Joey Oliver

To Outreach **in thanksgiving for Ben & Nance Haney** by Alice Haney

To Children's & Youth Ministry **in thanksgiving for Margaret & Miller Raney** by Alice Haney

To St. Mark's **in honor of Kate Krone** by Tanya and John Krone

To the Garden Fund **in honor of Deems Smith** by Jody Kelly

To Programs & Worship **in thanksgiving for James A. McAllen** by Mary Margaret McAllen Amberson

To Beth's Discretionary Fund **in honor of the anniversary of her ordination** by Polly and George Spencer

Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

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

FEBRUARY 7-8
Chicken Pot Pie
Sautéed Broccoli
Yeast Rolls
Garden Salad
Cake

CAFE KAIROS WILL SERVE
THE WEEKLY LENTEN
SOUP, GARDEN SALAD &
DINNER ROLLS THROUGH
LENT.

Photos in this Issue

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