

Summer Days

"At first I didn't know a voice inside me speaking low. I stumbled in my way.

But now these hours that can't be counted find me fresh, this ordinary time like kingdom come.

In clarity of dawn,
I fill my lungs, a summer-full of breaths.
The great field holds the wind, and sways."
- from the poem Ordinary Time, by Jay Parini



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

I love the changing pace of the church's rhythms. As we have completed another program year of offerings, I look forward to the more informal pace of summertime. We kicked off the summer with a great Pentecost Parish Picnic and gathering. The weather held, and it was a joy to see people spending time with one another. I particularly enjoyed the youth's enthusiasm for the Velcro wall.

As we enter into these months, there are still wonderful ways to be gathered as community. The combined 10.00am worship service promises renewed connections with people we don't see other times of the year. The 9.00am formation hour this summer will feature speakers who highlight poetry. We will host another national conference, when the Association of Anglican Musicians is here. The halls will soon be filled with children's voices as we have a week of Vacation Bible School.

The church goes into a green season—what we call ordinary time. Ordinary time is an important contrast to our other liturgical seasons. It allows us to dig more deeply into that which we already know. There are not the distractions and complexities of the festal seasons. We can use that space to journey a bit more deeply. It can be a time of pausing and paying attention. It can also be a time to catch our breaths. We can reconnect with people and places we love. We might read a new book. What are your hopes for this summer? Can you claim ordinary time in a new way? Whatever you choose, I hope you find refreshment and wonder.

Peace.

Vacation Bible School Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity June 18-21, 9.00am-12.00pm

All children, rising Kindergarten to rising 6th grade, are invited to join us for a fun-filled week as we learn all about one of God's faithful followers, Daniel. Each day, the children will become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Babylon!

We hope you'll make plans to be involved in VBS this year - we would love to welcome your children and you! For more information on volunteering, and to register your child, visit the Signs Ups/ Resevations page of the website.

The Messenger, USPS 514-020 Vol 107, Issue 3, 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 preceeding bi-monthly issue

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

Summer Formation

With Heart and Soul and Voice: Poetry and the Life of Faith, Summer 2018

June 10 - August 19 9.00am in Gish Hall, 3rd Floor

Plan to join our summer Adult Formation offering where we we will hear thoughts about how poetry expresses our deepest truths and invites us to explore all aspects of creation and our faith life. We will hear local poets (members of our parish) as well as those with poetic souls in hopes of recognizing the poetic journey of faith we all engage.

June 10	Ars Poetica, or What is Poetry? How God Inspires and is Present
June 17	What Language Shall I Borrow? Metaphor and the Importance of Words
June 24	Poetic Imagination: The Anglican Tradition of Faith and Poetry
July 1	Poetry of Faith and Doubt
July 8	God and Nature
July 15	Storytelling: How We Know Ourselves Through Our Stories
July 22	The Poetry of the Bible: Psalms and Other Writings
July 29	The Sacrament of the Present Moment: Our Lives as Poetry
August 5	Confessional Poetry
August 12	The Sacred and the Profane: How Poetry Binds Them into One
August 19	Lift Every Voice: Music as Poetry

Outreach Grant Recipients

We are in the second year of our new Bread of Life Grant and the ongoing partnership it funds with Communities in Schools at Crockett Elementary. That work continues to bear good fruit for all involved, including the students and faculty as well as our parish members who have participated. If you haven't yet volunteered at Crockett, please do consider one of the many opportunities during the next school year. The remaining \$40,000 for this grant cycle has been awarded in smaller Core Vocation Grants. Applicants whose projects or work was discerned to best fit with the second branch of our Core Vocation, "Feeding those hungry for knowledge and meaning," were privileged, though all applications that fit any of the three branches of our Core Vocation were considered. This year we had five new applicants along with three entities who have been awarded at least one grant since 2011. Six other applicants were also awarded grants last year.

The 2018 Core Vocation Grants have been awarded to:

The Children's Bereavement Center	Children's Chorus of San Antonio	Children's Shelter of San Antonio
The Christian Hope Resource Center	Corazon Ministries	Haven for Hope
Lifetime Recovery	Mission Road Ministries	Morningside Ministries
The San Antonio Public Library Foundation	San Antonio Youth Literacy	Youth Orchestras of San Antonio

An additional outreach gift of \$2,000 will be given to San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic this year in honor of Corky Carnahan and his faithful service to our whole community. Please be on the lookout for the Parish Life Handbook and future publications that will share more information on each of these entities and offer ways that you can volunteer or become involved.

Graduating Seniors



Daisy Bousquet - I am graduating from St. Mary's Hall and played on the Field Hockey team, helping to win TAPPS state in 2016. I have spent many summers attending Camp Mystic. I am thankful for this community and the many years I could serve as an acolyte. This fall, I look forward to attending Texas A&M University where I will study Business Administration at Mays Business School.

Olivia Briley - I've been a part of the St. Mark's community for as long as I can remember. I've participated in choir since I was four years old and have been a Choral Scholar for the past two years. Additionally, I've been an acolyte and an active member of youth group since I was 12. I have too many sweet memories at St. Mark's to count, but some of my favorites have been participating in lock-ins and service projects with the youth group as well as traveling with the choir to England and Washington, DC. In the fall, I will be studying Vocal Jazz Performance at the University of North Texas.





Kathleen Calgaard - From an early age, church was a normal activity of my week. Although, to me, church looked more like sitting on the kneeler in the pew coloring, I always understood the importance of faith and the necessity for a nurturing community. I received both of these things through St. Marks. I have been raised in the community of St. Marks my entire life and owe my faith to this community, my mother (Francie Calgaard), and grandmother (Martha Steves); as they were the ones who usually brought me on Sundays. Both of these women, as well as the entire community, have meant so much to me. I was baptized and confirmed here and have so many funny and meaningful memories here. Next year, I am so excited to attend Texas Christian University.

Guy Chipman - My favorite memory at St. Mark's was participating in Christmas to the Street every year. Staying up late the night before preparing for Saturday's events, playing games, socializing, and having fun, then the next morning waking up and helping hundreds of people get a nice hot meal for Christmas, it warms my heart so much. St. Mark's has been a place of refuge to lay everything out on the table and to ask God for help and forgiveness in not only my life but for many people I know. I plan on attending Northwest Vista Community College to double major my first year and discover what I truly want to do. After my first year, I intend to transfer to Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida, my second year and pursue a career in Videogame Creation and Design.





Tyler Kuykendall - I've been attending St. Mark's my entire life having been both baptized and confirmed here. I participated in the Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choir; youth group; and as an acolyte. Most of my great memories here involve white vans, loud music, serving the community, and maybe learning a little about Jesus. I love this community and am grateful to have gotten to spend my childhood growing up here. Outside of church I played volleyball and participated in a clinical rotation class shadowing doctors and nurses at Methodist Hospital in the Medical Center. This fall I will be attending Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge majoring in Athletic Training. Geaux Tigers!

Graduating Seniors



Anna Lane - From a very young age, St. Mark's has created a growing and loving community around me. St. Mark's holds some of my favorite memories and people. From the early years of running down the hallways with my cousins as young toddlers in ballerina costumes (because we refused to wear anything else) to serving as an acolyte with my friends. It has been one of the greatest blessings in my life to have such a wonderful collection of people I have gotten to know over the years. I plan to attend Texas Christian University this fall and major in Business with a minor in Fashion Merchandising. Go frogs! I can't wait to come back on holidays and be reminded of the home this church has built for me.

Liam Morehead - When I came to St. Mark's as an awkward little 8th grader, it's safe to say that I was terrified. It was this new place full of people I had never met and a city I didn't know. But I came to find out quickly that however awkward I was, or however timid and introverted, the people here would continually respond with friendliness and warmth. No matter how often, or really how rarely, I would show up to youth group, I was always greeted by welcoming faces and people who encouraged me to try new things. The St. Mark's community has simultaneously challenged me and let me be who I am, something that everyone needs. From Christmas to the Street to the embarrassing stories my mother told about me in her sermons, I'm thankful for all the time I've spent at St. Marks and will remember it fondly as I head to Sewanee: The University of the South in Tennessee for my next chapter.





Alex Rogers - I will be attending the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington to study Vocal Performance. I chose to study vocal performance because I have sung almost my whole life, and I want to go into the music industry and become a famous singer/songwriter. My favorite memories of the youth group at St. Mark's were always made anytime we had a lock-in or retreat.

Ana Ross - I've been blessed to grow up in the St. Mark's community, and I am so thankful for the relationship I have with Christ that started here. I ran Varsity Cross Country and Track for four years at TMI. During that time, I garnered ten state medals and a state championship. I was an active member in Model UN, the writing center, and served as Rector of Happening #139 this past March. Despite being the daughter of a huge Aggie, this fall I will be attending the University of Texas at Austin (Hook 'em!). I will be majoring in Neuroscience and will be in the Plan II Honors and Polymathic Scholars programs. I'll also be running Division I Cross Country and Track for the Longhorns. I thank the St. Mark's parish for the love and support they've given me, and I can't wait for the journey ahead.





Elise Rubiola - I would like to thank St. Mark's for being a part of my whole life. You all have watched my many stages of life through Cherub Choir, Boy and Girl Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Group. My favorite memory from St. Mark's would have to be the Sundays when I would lean out into the aisle, and my grandfather would pick me up from the pews and carry me out during the closing hymn. After many years and countless services, it is with a sad heart I say goodbye for now. You haven't gotten rid of me just yet because I promise to be back during the holidays. I will be attending Blinn College in the fall, and then plan on transferring to Texas A&M University. I will pursue a degree in Communications and plan to work in Advertising.

Congratulations to Polly Haff who is not pictured here.

Children's Ministry Wrap-Up

This program year has been a blast in the Children's Ministry department! I have had so much fun getting to know the children and their families - what a great crew of kids (and parents) we have at St. Mark's.

As I look back at my first year at St. Mark's, I am so very grateful for the opportunity to share Sundays and many fun events with the children of this parish. They are full of life, happiness, and a ton of energy! Each Sunday I lead Children's Chapel with mostly the younger children (ages 3-6), who are not yet old enough for choir, and it is one of the highlights of my week. We gather for prayer time, reflect on the gospel, and work on a craft focusing on the content discussed during chapel time. The children are attentive and always eager to participate by answering questions, being the Line Leader, and extinguishing the candle at the end of our time together. After the 9.00am service



Abby Richards

the Line Leader, and extinguishing the candle at the end of our time together. After the 9.00am service, the children join us back on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. I love peeking in on each class as the children listen to stories, work on activities, and play games with their classmates and teachers. It is clear they are forming life-long friendships as they learn the ways of Jesus and God's Kingdom together. Thank you to all the adult volunteers who taught Sunday School and assisted me with Children's Chapel and VBS this year. I am deeply thankful for you.

Here are a few highlights from this past year:

- Vacation Bible School "Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus Was a Kid". More than 40 children enjoyed singing, dancing, playing, and learning about Jesus' life when he was young.
- Homecoming Sunday We kicked off the program year with Blessing of the Backpacks, face painting, and treats.
- Blessing of the Costumes We enjoyed dinner, a costume parade, "scary" music on the organ, and games for everyone.
- Advent Intergenerational Formation Wreath Making, Las Posadas with a Pinata, and the Christmas Pageant with a "living nativity" petting zoo afterwards.
- Lent Palm Sunday Festival with pony rides and a petting zoo, as well as the Easter Egg Hunt Picnic with the telling of the Easter story, lots of eggs, candy, and face painting.
- Recognition Sunday We thanked our volunteers, presented the 5th graders with Bibles, and sent them on their way to the St. Mark's Youth Group.

It has been a gift to watch the children grow and develop over the year. I'm looking forward to this summer with VBS and Children's Chapel, and eventually welcoming everyone back in the fall!





Youth Ministry Wrap-Up

This has been a marvelous year in the lives of our youth! Over the course of this year, we have had 33 Wednesday Night Formations, 22 Sunday Formations, five retreats/lock-ins that were hosted by St. Mark's, six special events, and five retreats hosted by other churches that we attended.

This year our youth group has grown spiritually and in numbers. 33% of our youth are new to the youth suite and only two of those youth were incoming 6th graders. Numbers are a wonderful thing, but I believe what the youth have to say about what we do is far more important, so I included some of the things that they said in a survey we took at the end of this spring.



Meredith Rogers

Spring 2018 Survery Results

When I come to church, I come because...

I feel safe here.
I leave feeling better than when I came.
I want to continue to grow in my faith.
I like the friends I've made.
I love having a safe place to talk.

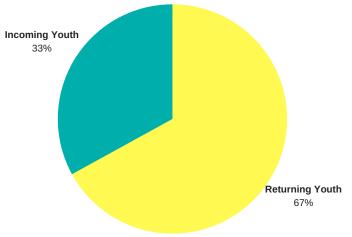
If I only had one word to describe St. Mark's Youth I would say it's...

Amazing Joyful
Family Inclusive
Loving Fun
Welcoming Lit



At the beginning of this year, I wrote my first article for *The Messenger* and told you all that I was excited to "live life" with our youth and their families. At our last youth group this year, I told the youth how wonderful and privileged I feel to do just that, to watch their plays, concerts, or sporting events, to hear about their tests and classes, to know when they have gotten a fourth of an inch taller, or to notice their haircuts. I am so grateful that our families and youth have embraced and invited me to all of these events. I look forward to the continuing ebb and flow of life at St. Mark's.

Incoming vs. Returning Youth 2017-2018





Lent, Easter, Fiesta Concert, Parish Picnic











Youth Confirmation



Congratulations to our Youth Confirmands! Pictured here from top left: The Rev. Matt Wise, The Rev. Carol Morehead, Maddie Merritt, Rayen Lucas, Ethan Pollom, Tripp Voight, Charles Goodenough, Don Doyle, Meredith Rogers. Bottom left: The Rev. Beth Knowlton and The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson.

Adult Confirmation





Congratulations to our Adult Confirmands: Bernadette Barber, Denise Dahm, Don Doyle, Rachel Dugger, Alida Garcia, Alice Haney, Marianne Hileman, Will Hileman, Marisa Peterson, Beverly Purcell Guerra, Abby Richards, Laura Sellitto-Wickham, Megan Steves, and Jesse Wickham.





The graphic above is a snapshot of the many facets of the music program highlighted in our recent Parish-Wide Listening Sessions. Music is an integral part of St. Mark's, and it is clear from your input that we are "Feeding those who are hungry for beauty and creativity" with an incredible program that serves not only our parish but extends into the community in many deep and meaningful ways.

Even more exciting is the vision you put forth for the future trajectory of the program and the potential for continued growth, demonstrating a strong desire to continue building on our strengths and incorporating new directions. Your insights have provided the Search Committee a solid foundation upon which to build our work in discerning a new Organist and Choirmaster.

The committee is committed to finding the best possible Organist and Choirmaster for our community and is pleased to report a significant response to our call for applications. We are excited to move forward with a strong and diverse field of candidates for further review.

Your collective involvement has been critical to our success thus far, and we look forward to continuing to draw on the strengths of the community as the search narrows. We look forward to updating you with important news as the process unfolds.

Carl Leafstedt

Co-Chair, Organist and Choirmaster Search Committee

Anne Schelleng

Co-Chair, Organist and Choirmaster Search Committee

Vestry Discernment Committee

Last year, the Vestry approved a change in the election process for new Vestry class members starting this year. In adopting this change, the 2017 Vestry made these observations:

- unsuccessful Vestry nominees were not willing to run again
- the former Vestry selection process favored nominees with longer history at St. Mark's and limited service by younger members who possess needed skills/expertise
- Parish Meeting was not a comprehensive representation of parish

The Vestry Discernment Committee, working under this new process, has met three times and will continue working into the summer months. A slate of five nominees will be presented by the Committee to the Vestry for submission to the congregation for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting in November.

The Committee needs your input. If you believe that someone should be considered as one of the nominees for the slate, please contact one of the Vestry Discernment Committee members below:

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

Bill Fisher Lisa Uhl

Financials

2018 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 04/30/2018

33.33% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$811,028	\$744,076
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$107,761	\$84,000
Seasonal Giving	\$12,445	\$10,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$135,092	\$139,106
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$145,122	\$164,348
Total Revenue	\$1,211,448	\$1,141,530
Total Expenses	\$845,636	\$906,441
Over/(Under)	\$365,812	\$235,090

\$1,648,762 in 2018 Pledges • 298 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,553 • Median Pledge is \$2,813

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



In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru May 15, 2018)

MEMORIAL FUND

Allison Duesing by Robert Buchanan, Polly and George Spencer, Elsie Steg, Chica and John Younger, Mollie and Bartel Zachry

Amanda Ochse by Cary and Walter Bain, Virginia and Donald Beeler, Robert Buchanan, Judy Cavender, Mr. and Mrs. Baker Duncan, Earl Fae Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hill, Sherman Macdaniel, Carol and John McGuire, Camilla Parker, Polly and George Spencer, Dixie and Donald VanEynde, The Watson Foundation-Courtney and Mark Watson, Mollie and Bartel Zachry

Selma Satel by Ann and Sam Barshop, Louise and Michael Beldon and Eleanor Komet, Eugenia Bertetti, Susan Biegler, Robert Buchanan, Elizabeth and Joseph Casseb, Elliot Z. Cohen, Lynn Crystal, Pat and Tom Frost, Loraine and Rick Geisinger, Barbara Sue Howard, Laura and LaBatt, Patty and Rad Freel, Priscilla Kent, Myrna and David Langford, Dr. and Mrs. Joe McFarlane, Sue and Bob McClane, Diana Morehouse, Eleanor and Keith O'Gorman, Camilla Parker, Clytie Phelps, Cindy Renteria, Sally Ann and Doug Smith, Kathy and Larry Stull, Lorrie and Arthur Uhl, Barbara Wood

Patsy Steves by Earl Fae Eldridge, Marilyn Eldridge, Virginia and Gary Koehl, Linda Nixon Seeligson, Lucille and Jim Travis, Lorrie and Arthur Uhl

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUND

Allison Duesing by Sue Bain, Linda and Stephen Blount **Selma Satel** by Sue Bain, Chica and John Younger

ALTAR GUILD

Allison Duesing by Sarah Joe and Phil LeMessurier

ST. CECILIA GUILD

Allison Duesing by Ann Coiner Amanda Ochse by Ann Coiner Patsy Steves by Ann Coiner

TUCKER COURTYARD

Selma Satel by Anne and Robert Tucker

BEREAVEMENT FUND

Selma Satel by Cary and Walter Bain

Photos in this Issue

Cover photo: Eric Nelson

Photos in this issue provided by: Natalie Matthews, Carol Morehead, Eric Nelson, Meredith Rogers, St. Mark's Youth