

The Messenger

from St. Mark's

October/November 2017

Stewardship
Vestry Nominees
Member Spotlight



Rhythms of Common Prayer and Life

"For the rhythm of life is a powerful beat, puts a tingle in your fingers and a tingle in your feet! Rhythm on the inside, rhythm on the street, and the rhythm of life is a powerful beat!"
from the musical *Sweet Charity*, lyrics by Dorothy Fields

I've been thinking a lot about the rhythms of our community life, partly because they were initially delayed this program year due to the threat of Hurricane Harvey. We had to rearrange formation schedules, but more than that I realized how much I count on our rhythms. The rhythm of summer has one feel, and the program year another. I enjoy both. The summer is less frenetic. We see different people at the combined worship service, and the formation hour brings a different set of voices to the conversation. The resumption of the program year brings increased activity and programming, more choices for study and fellowship, and a new offering to extend our reach into the community.



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

*How are we
enhancing our
ability to live God's
vision in a way that
is living and active?*

These rhythms of community life mirror the rhythms of our liturgical year and our own lives. We experience many different seasons and different gifts reside in each. As we enter into October and November, we look towards how we steward these rhythms of life. Some of this is intentionally looking at our financial resources. How are we enhancing our ability to live God's vision in a way that is living and active? This is never a purely financial endeavor if it's genuine stewardship. It has to include relationships. This year we will again have videos during formation and on the website to allow us to hear from people about how we have experienced this in the past year.

We have exciting opportunities to explore this in new ways this year with Crockett Elementary School through our collaboration with Communities in Schools -SA and our partnership with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rockport as they recover from Hurricane Harvey. More of these opportunities will emerge throughout the year, and we are seeing new energy in our community to heartily embrace these opportunities.

If you don't receive our weekly eNews, subscribe on the homepage or call the office. Weekly we share updates on our varied opportunities to engage. The announcements in the Sunday bulletin share these as well.

We have our annual Parish Meeting in November on the Feast of All Saints'. We have faithful members who are willing to offer themselves for service on the Vestry. I encourage you to read about them carefully in this issue. We will also have an opportunity to hear about the past year and share some priorities for the coming year. I hope you will make every effort to be present at the meeting to participate and of course sample pie!

I invite us to pay attention to the rhythms that are forming us as individuals and as a community. God is calling us to add our hearts and voices to the life of St. Mark's and the City of San Antonio. I feel blessed to serve in this place and look forward to finding new rhythms while we honor those that are already so life giving and deeply embedded in our common life.

Peace,

Beth +

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Looking forward starts with assessing where we find ourselves. So here are highlights of where we have placed our energy as a community in recent months. As our Rector pointed out in the Parish Life Handbook, we are moving into a more active time of engagement as we discern our way forward together. You can see this most vividly in our outreach efforts like our re-imagined Lenten offerings – **Music in the Park** and **A Day of Prayer and Service**; our new partnership with Communities in Schools, the first recipient of our new 3-yr Bread of Life Grant through which we will actively work with **David Crockett Elementary School**; and our response to Hurricane Harvey, both financially and with our time, to meet the needs of the members and community of St. Peter's Episcopal in Rockport.

To amplify our stewardship theme of Living God's Vision, we are adding a phrase from Hebrews, which reminds us that *The Word of God is Living and Active*. This theme will frame many of our offerings in the coming year, from stewardship to formation offerings, and from parish life to outreach.

This vision requires the faithful financial support of all of us.

Our budget is a planning document. It reflects our investment in the programs and activities that equip us and enhance our capacity to serve our members, our visitors, our neighborhood, the greater San Antonio area, and beyond.

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; walk-in assistance; and Diocesan support that supports churches throughout the Diocese We seek to continue this strong commitment in 2018.

Serving. With your pledge or scheduled giving, you help St. Mark's serve as a resource to our neighbors and our members.

Living into our role as a resource-sized parish, we have some special multi-

day events coming up in 2018. In January, we will host the first ever **Alamo Baroque Festival**, a week-long education, outreach, and performance opportunity that will include collaboration with Trinity University, UTSA, area college students, San Antonio Symphony members, the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio, and the Children's Chorus of San Antonio. The programming is underwritten by our generous Festival Patron, Dr. Rich Butler and St. Mark's will provide facility, logistical, and marketing support. Visit AlamoBaroqueFestival.org for the festival schedule.

In February, we will play host to the national conference of the **Consortium of Episcopal Endowed Parishes**, attended by some 700 clergy, lay staff, and church volunteers. We will provide volunteer support for the conference and a Choral Evensong at St. Mark's. This is an opportunity for us to share our rich history with Episcopal churches from throughout the United States.

In June, we will host the week-long national meeting of the **Anglican Association of Musicians** including special services and performances to which all are welcome. All three of these events are being promoted nationally.

These offerings in addition to our well-loved annual parish events, formation, pastoral care, and worship reflect our core vocation and are supported by St. Mark's annual operating budget.



Pledge Ingathering on Sunday, November 5 at all services.

Be watching for your stewardship mailing and consider your pledge prayerfully.

Contact Dina Aboul Saad at 210-226-2426 or dsaad@stmarks-sa.org for information on pledging, setting up online or ACH scheduled giving, or giving by text.

Adult Formation

The Rector's Forum "Walking in Love: The Word Made Flesh"

The Rev. Beth Knowlton and The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson
September 10 - October 29

This class is a practical exploration of this year's formation theme from Hebrews, *The Word of God is Living and Active*. Using insights from the Ignatian tradition, we will use scripture and the imagination to explore ways in which we might focus more intentionally on embodying the creative love of God in our relationships, communities, and workplaces. The class will use reflection on our daily habits as a way to discover areas of growth and challenge, and will also look to the daily experiences and practices of early Christians as a helpful counterpoint and guide to living faithfully in a world of competing values

Adult Track 2: Episcopal Basics

The Rev. Carol Morehead and The Rev. Matt Wise
Class meets: October 8 - 29

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry likes to talk about the Episcopal Church as 'the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.' What does it mean, then, to be an Episcopalian? What do Episcopalians believe? How do we live our faith? What characteristics make us the Episcopal branch? What do we have in common with other branches of the Jesus Movement? This four-week class will be a basic primer for anyone who wants to explore or revisit some of the core concepts of what it means to be Episcopalian.

Creating Space for the Word of God to Become Living and Active, The Invitation of Advent

The Rev. Beth Knowlton, Dr. Joseph Causby, and James R. Dennis, OP
Class meets: November 12 - 26

In anticipation of the season of Advent, this three-week class will engage with the special themes offered by our tradition in arguably our most counter cultural liturgical season. The first class will look at the prophetic texts we encounter in scripture. The second class will look at our Advent hymnody. The third class will look at art images throughout history specifically focusing on themes of Annunciation.

Coming Up On The Calendar

Sunday, October 8 at 5.00pm - Blessing of the Animals

Wednesday, October 25 at 5.30pm - Dinner followed by Halloween Parade and Blessing of the Costumes

Sunday, November 5 - Feast of All Saints', Baptisms, Parish Meeting with Vestry Election, Stewardship Ingathering

Sunday, November 12 at 5.00pm - Remembrance Day Service

Wednesday, November 15 at 2.00pm - Grief and the Holidays Workshop

Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Report, and Pie Tasting - Sunday, November 5

Join St. Mark's between the services for the annual Parish Meeting where you will receive the St. Mark's Annual Report. Our Rector, Wardens, and Treasurer will discuss all we accomplished last year and what we have planned for 2018. We will also hold Vestry elections for the Class of 2019.

In true St. Mark's fashion, Leah and the Kitchen Ministries will have their annual Pie Tasting and begin to take orders for holiday treats. We will have baptisms at each of the services. This is one Sunday you will not want to miss!

Children's Ministry

The program year is underway, and the 2nd floor is humming with activity. We kicked off with Homecoming Sunday on September 10. The children enjoyed getting their faces painted, making fireflies for our banner, opening the goodie bags, and eating cookies made by Ms. Leah. The weather was beautiful and the energy was evident all around as we welcomed everyone back from the summer!

Our Sunday School program began September 17. The children enjoyed the new themes in each of the classrooms - "Jesus is the Good Shepherd" in the PreK and Kinder classroom, "Jesus is the Vine, We Are the Branches" in the 1st and 2nd Grade classroom, and "Jesus is the Living Water" in the 3rd to 5th grade classroom. A special thank you to Rachel and Don Doyle, Meredith Rogers, and the St. Mark's Youth Group for giving so much of their time to help make the decorations happen. Come by and see our classrooms!



Abby Richards

As we look toward the fall we are excited about the upcoming **Blessing of the Costumes on Wednesday, October 25**. We hope everyone will join us for this fun, festive time to play games, participate in art projects, taste sweet treats, and enjoy each other's costumes! Dinner will be served at 5.30pm and the fun will begin at 6.00pm. We will start our costume parade in Gosnell Hall and process together to the church for a blessing and Halloween music with Joe and Kathy, followed by face painting and game stations in Gosnell Hall. This evening is going to be so much fun - we hope to see everyone there.

Children's Ministry offerings on Sundays:

9:00am - Children's Chapel
10.10am - Sunday School for ages
3yrs to 5th Grade
Rm. 205 - PreK and Kinder
Rm. 206 - 1st and 2nd Grade
Rm. 208 - 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade



Remembrance Sunday, November 12 at 5.00pm

This service of readings and music marks the 100th anniversary of the United States entering the First World War. We join with the Anglican Communion in remembering those in died in war and conflicts throughout the world, as we conclude the octave of All Saints. Use the Sign Ups/Reservations button at www.stmarks-sa.org to include names of Service members to be recognized during this day of remembrance.



Music from St. Mark's

TBD

PAULA PAGE, HARP

Former principal harpist of the Houston Symphony and Professor of Harp at Rice University in concert. *Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.*

NOVEMBER 5
SUNDAY, 5.00PM,

CHORAL EUCHARIST, FEAST OF ALL SAINTS'

A service of Holy Eucharist featuring Palestrina *Missa Aeterna Christi munera.*

NOVEMBER 12
SUNDAY, 5.00PM

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This service of readings and music marks the 100th anniversary of the United States entering the First World War. We join with the Anglican Communion in remembering those who died in war and conflicts throughout the world, as we conclude the octave of All Saints.

Underwritten by the St. Cecilia Guild.

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

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.*

Homecoming Sunday



Homecoming Sunday



Vestry Election at Parish Meeting, November 5

Please take some time to read about each of the Vestry candidates (in alphabetical order below). 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. Candidates were asked to reflect on the following:

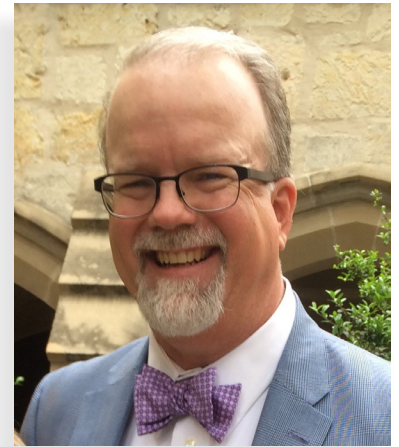
- 1) Why do you feel called to serve on the Vestry of St. Mark's?
- 2) Please describe your participation at St. Mark's and/or in the community, indicating experiences that you think will be helpful for the Vestry.
- 3) St. Mark's Core Vocation is feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life: Feeding the 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?

Gene Alderman

1) I have been so fortunate to be associated with St. Mark's for nearly 25 years and have received so much during that time from this parish. I have been blessed with so many wonderful friends and been able to participate in the life of the parish on a deep, meaningful level. I long to bring my gifts to the leadership of the parish, so that others may

possibly experience the beauty of St. Mark's on a deep, personal level. **2)** I am honored to have had a huge breadth of experiences at St. Mark's. I have planned and participated in more than 30 mission trips, and participated in numerous Habitat builds and Christmas to the Streets each year. I served as a representative to Diocesan Council twice and have been an active participant in liturgy planning. While a member of the staff, I served in a number of capacities at the diocesan level, including the Bishop's Youth Commission and Camps Subcommittee. Most recently I served as a member of the Youth Renovation Team,

and thoroughly enjoy serving the youth on Sundays during formation. **3)** As the elected leadership of the parish, the Vestry has a huge responsibility which extends far beyond attending monthly meetings, discussing finances, and giving consent to move forward on one project or another. I believe that the most important role of the Vestry is to live the vocation of St. Marks to the fullest. I would contend that everyone has one area of the core vocation statement that speaks more loudly to them than the others. For me that would be feeding the hungry with real food, and being a member of St. Mark's I have had many opportunities to answer that call. I believe that the members of the Vestry should be active participants in those areas where their gifts lie. The most important vote that a Vestry member will cast will not be done sitting around a table, but rather living the call of the parish. **4)** I became a member of St. Mark's in May of 1994 when I answered the call to serve as the youth minister. I was drawn to St. Mark's because the parish has been and continues to be forward thinking. Additionally, I want my boys to have an awesome experience growing up in the church, singing in the choir, going on youth trips, and serving the community that they are growing up in, and I cannot imagine a better place than St. Mark's.



Emily Foster



1) I am a lifelong member of St. Mark's and am excited about the opportunity to help build upon our great success. I have loved being involved in various facets and now is an especially opportune time in my life. I have prayerfully considered and feel fully capable to assist in helping realize the full potential of St. Mark's. **2)** I have enjoyed participating in many church activities- my greatest joy being Children's Chapel. As a Children's Choir Mother, I also have a great love of the music at this church. My community involvement spans 5 years on the board of a local women's club until I served my final year as the Chair, school fundraising and organizing for my daughter's school, and participating in and fundraising for healthcare causes, such as PanCan. I've learned valuable lessons that I know will prove helpful and effective should I be elected for the Vestry. **3)** I envision a continual assessment of our strengths in the areas we are called to support. A review of the landscape and collaboration of our ideas and best practices will ensure we keep our core vocation at the forefront of what we do. Continued on next page.

Vestry Nominees

Emily Foster (cont.)

4) I grew up in the church and have always been a member. It is a natural home for me and I am thus attracted to the comfort of home, the diverse welcoming membership, the music, the sheer beauty of the church and downtown landscape, and the services in which we participate.

Ann Leafstedt

1) I would like to commit time and energy to supporting this vibrant and life-giving community, learn more about St. Mark's, and help continue the growth and development of the programs and ministries of St. Mark's. Being on the vestry would also provide a way for me to help discern ways in which St. Mark's will continue

to remain a vibrant part of San Antonio. 2) I have been on the Altar Guild for approximately five years, and recently completed a two-year term as Altar Guild Treasurer and Supply Chair. I began serving on the Finance Committee earlier this year. In the San Antonio community, I serve on the board of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, and on the board of Bexar Land Trust (also known as Green Spaces Alliance). It has been interesting to see the overlap – for example, one of the Lenten outreach projects this past spring was at one of the community gardens of

Green Spaces Alliance. 3) The Vestry plays a role in helping to make sure we are paying attention to each part of the vocation, and doing as much as possible to thoughtfully implement each part. There are so many exciting projects going on at St. Mark's, and the Vestry can support our vocation by examining how these projects carry out our vocation and also by figuring out new ways in which we can support our vocation. 4) We joined St. Mark's in 2008. We were drawn by - and continue to be drawn by - the energy, the ministries, the sermons, the music, the hard work going on every day, the sense of community, and the shared commitment to the core vocation of the church. Our children are in college now, but they both went through the youth program and served as acolytes. I am grateful for the many ways in which St. Mark's has shaped and continues to shape our lives.



Greg Merritt



1) I feel called to serve because I believe all of us should have a voice in growing, enhancing, and embracing St. Mark's vision. As a member of the Vestry, I will be humbled and excited to have the opportunity to engage in conversations with the clergy, congregation, youth, and children of our community. Furthermore, I will be privileged simply to listen to other voices, and to find creative and engaging ways of enacting our church's mission. 2) Within the St. Mark's community, I've been involved in the following: Sunday School teacher, Children's Ministries Renovation Team, Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, and St. Mark's Environmental Committee. In addition, outside of St. Mark's community I have supported the following major activities: St. George Episcopal School's participation in the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti's Partnership program, acted as the Chair of the Diocesan Environmental Committee from 2013-2015, and been active in the Workshop's activities, including: Weekly Reflection

Groups, Duncan Park Retreat 2016, and Men's Group. 3) The theme of "feeding the hungry" resonates with me because I think all of us are always hungry for something. The Vestry supports this in and outside of our church walls by helping the clergy and congregation address those needs, through enabling key St. Mark's ministries, recommending church-led programs that reach to those around us, and active discernment of what we hear God and our community calling us to do. I don't think those processes are always easy; sometimes even understanding and simple conversation take patience, humility, and compassionate acceptance. But with these three attributes, and in step with the clergy and the congregation, members of the Vestry can recognize, prioritize, and address the many ways of feeding of our St. Mark's and downtown communities. 4) My wife and I joined St. Mark's in 2001 and were both immediately drawn to the community because of its downtown focus. We also recognized quickly that St. Mark's offers much more, through its ongoing relationship with the Workshop, its thoughtful and approachable clergy, and its consistent encouragement of open, constructive, and respectful dialogue around hard questions that face each of us as individuals and as Episcopalians. I have enjoyed all that I've been able to participate in and have always felt appreciated and welcomed to do even more. And to me, that's a community.

Vestry Nominees

Bob Pollom

1) I am truly honored that the nominating committee feels I am an acceptable Vestry candidate. Having moved multiple times during my adult life, each parish has always been the stabilizing focal point for me within the new city. Serving on the Vestry is one way to give back to this community. I expect St. Mark's to be the final stop in this life and, similar to other parishes, St. Mark's affords me the opportunity to be engaged in a dynamic religious community that honors and respects the past, while living the present and actively preparing for the future. Selfishly, I know whatever my contribution, I will get back multiple times over. **2)** At St. Mark's, I have participated in Education for Ministry (EfM), having completed the first year in May and will start the second this fall; Day of Prayer and Service; and Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM). My prior Vestry service includes: being elected to the Bishop's Committee at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Glasgow, KY approximately 1982 – 1984, being nominated at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo, MI but having to withdraw my name because of a business move, and from 2011-2012, I was elected to fill a final two years vacancy at St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Boerne, TX. In Boerne, I also served as a Lector and Eucharistic Ministry volunteer. After college and four years in the U.S. Army, my career was in commercial print management until we moved to San Antonio in 2003. I retired from USAA in 2015 after 12 years in Operations, with the last five years in Global Operations. **3)** "Feeding" is a continual activity. I am assuming this Core Vocation is an agenda item at each Vestry meeting and is represented in each Vestry decision. Beyond meetings Vestry members should be active providers and recipients of the Bread of Life through St. Mark's and other community activities. **4)** Stephanie and I joined St. Mark's in 2015. There are three reasons I am continually drawn to St. Mark's. Family, it is rewarding to watch family grow and mature. Diversity, St. Mark's provides a rich cultural and personal environment that addresses healthy community issues critical in the world today. Engagement with critical thinking, I know I will always be challenged when I step foot on St. Mark's campus.



David Ross

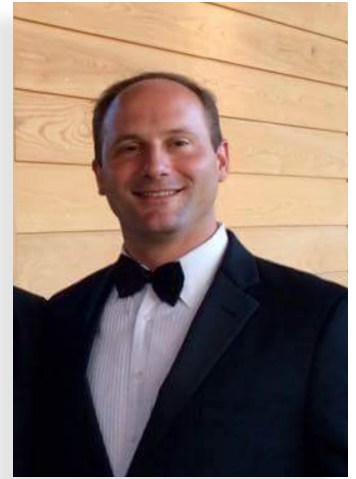


1) I am a lifelong Episcopalian since growing up in Corpus Christi. Since moving to San Antonio in 2000, St Mark's is where our family has called home. I feel that serving on the Vestry is an opportunity to give back in some small way to the church that has given us so much, and has figured in such a large way in our lives. It was a privilege to serve on the Vestry once before where I learned much about our congregation and church. **2)** I served on the Vestry from 2010-2012, taught Godly Play in Sunday School for 2 years, have been an usher for about 5 years, currently serve on the Care Committee, and have participated in the Christmas to the Street since it began. Through our two daughters, I have been involved with our wonderful youth choir, acolytes, and youth group. I currently serve on the medical board of a local medical non-profit. **3)** Before serving on the Vestry previously I had no idea what they did. It was all rather mysterious and unknown. I have since come to believe that the Vestry is there to assist the Rector, to lead the church, and achieve the church's vocation through deliberate discernment. It is also there to help be the voice of the congregation as well as to help lead the congregation when important issues arise. St. Mark's core vocation was arrived at after a long deliberative process and as such addresses our deeply held beliefs and aspirations for our church. It is thus the Vestry's duty to hold this in mind to assure that we continually strive to reach our vocation. **4)** When we joined St Mark's in 2000, we had just started a family, our professional careers, and were looking for a church home. We started our search at St Mark's and ended it before we looked at any other churches. We felt so welcomed and at home immediately. The church women welcomed Jeanette as she was pregnant, and she found fellowship with the Lion and the Lamb group. We were relatively new in town and quickly felt the love and kindness of the congregation and clergy. We particularly love the strong youth ministry – from nursery to choir, acolyting, youth group, and Camp Capers. We have tried to instill in our children the love and wonder of God. We could not do it without the guidance of St Mark's wonderful staff, clergy, and our church family. We hope that as our children mature, they will continue to draw on the lessons and rich experiences they have had at St Mark's.

Vestry Nominees

Ralph Voight

1) After moving here from Orlando, Florida I was immediately accepted by my new community. St. Mark's was my foundation for creating a new life in San Antonio. That unconditional love is the reason I feel called to serve on the Vestry. St. Mark's has defined who I am today and I feel a duty to serve those who positively influenced my formation and that of my family. 2) I have been an active member of the St. Mark's community since my confirmation in 2001. I have served as Head Usher, Parish Picnic Co-Chair, Eucharistic Minister, Finance Committee member, Lenten Luncheon volunteer, and as a member of both the New Rector Search Committee and Youth Renovation Committee. I believe my active involvement in various individual committees has given me a solid understanding of the ministries and heart of St. Mark's, and that it is now time to use my knowledge and leadership experience to help move St. Mark's forward as member of the Vestry. I recently completed a 17-year career in the museum field as Vice President of Visitor Experience at the Witte Museum. While I am no longer with the Witte Museum, I am still passionate about my work there and hope to bring my experience in mission based leadership to St. Mark's. I am currently the Managing Member of Voight Enterprises, a commercial real estate business where I work closely with family. I also served on the Board of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy. 3) As a Vestry member, my priority is outreach. I believe that as a downtown church there are many opportunities to steward our core vocation in this community. I believe St. Mark's can expand our programs to feed others with real food and knowledge through outreach to the downtown community. As a parent of two choir members, I am awed by the beauty and creativity of the choir ministry and how it represents St. Mark's here and abroad. 4) I moved to San Antonio in June of 2000 and quickly found a church home at St. Mark's. My wife and I have two sons, Tripp (13) and Bailey (11). The sense of community, fellowship and stewardship continues to draw me to the St. Mark's community.



Lucy Wilson



1) St. Mark's has been such a blessing in my life that I appreciate the opportunity to serve this community in any place that my abilities can contribute. Through St. Mark's dedication to its Core Vocation and Beth's leadership, I have grown in ways that have brought me peace and purpose. When I was considering this invitation, there was a reading was from Romans that helped confirm my decision to offer the gifts God has given me. 2) At St. Mark's, my spiritual growth has been directed by participation in Adult Formation, Time Out Bible Study, and membership on the Environmental Awareness Committee. At Haven for Hope, I serve lunch twice a month and help deliver the meals prepared by our cooking teams. Over a year ago, I began working at the food pantry at Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM). In the spring, I was privileged to serve on the planning committee for the Day of Prayer and Service. I have been

infinitely blessed through all these experiences. In Oklahoma, I taught for five years and after a few different administration positions, became an assistant principal. As the assistant principal, I led a state sponsored pilot project for our school in Arts-in-Education. In San Antonio, I served as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, where my primary assignment was communicating district information, responding to questions and requests, and coordinating policy development with the Board of Trustees. Most of my life has been involved with organizational structures and change. After retiring, I served on the North East Educational Foundation Board of Directors for ten years. 3) I would expect the Vestry to continue to support many of the current programs and activities with ongoing observation to assure that our Core Vocation is continuing to be met. This continuation would not preclude sensitivity to our ever changing local community and the needs that arise. My first priority would be to more fully understand the present work of the Vestry. The community of St. Mark's is generous, creative, and intensely committed to "doing the work that has been given us to do." I find the Core Vocation to be extremely powerful in the life of this church and its members. 4) I joined St. Mark's on February 11, 2007. When I retired, I wanted to become involved in service to the homeless, so a friend invited me to volunteer with Ruby's Kitchen. I have always looked to the verses in Matthew 25:35-40 ending with "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Throughout my life this has been one of the main tenets of my Christian faith. St. Mark's has provided many avenues for me to live into this. During the Sunday worship services, the music and liturgy are so beautifully orchestrated that I leave energized to go and "serve with gladness and singleness of heart."

Member Spotlight

This month we are saluting Susan Riordan who recently retired from St. Mark's Altar Guild after 35 years of service.

Susan Avery Riordan is a cradle Episcopalian. She was baptized at St. John's Episcopal Church in Mason City, Iowa, sprinkled with Holy Water from the River Jordan which had been brought back by her great aunt. Her father was a Congregationalist and her mother's family supported a small Episcopal Church in Estherville, Iowa. Although Susan and her family moved to San Antonio when she was eight years old, she has many happy memories of Lake Okoboji, Iowa where she and her brother would return every summer.

When Susan moved to San Antonio, the population was 200,000, so she has observed enormous changes both in our city and church. When Susan was confirmed, the Rector of St. Mark's was Bishop Jones. She remembers with great fondness all of the activities she enjoyed at St. Mark's as a youngster, especially the Girl Scout troop and youth group. Susan specifically remembers the stage in Capers Hall during World War II when St. Mark's brought in a band to sponsor dances. Susan Avery, her mother, was the first woman to serve on the Vestry. (She is pictured in the Activity Stitchery on the first-floor art wall.) Her brother Gilbert Avery, who is now deceased, was ordained at St. Mark's and then served as a Curate for three years before taking a position on the lower east side of New York City.

Susan graduated from Jefferson High School and attended Sullins College in Bristol, Virginia/Tennessee. (The State line went through the center of town!) There were two private girls colleges in Bristol and every year all the boys in the county would meet the train to check out the girls as they arrived. This is how Susan met her husband, Herbert Riordan.

A mother and wife raising three boys, Susan also owned and operated Avery and Company, a motor oil distributor. She is the loving and proud grandmother of five granddaughters and one grandson. She is an accomplished knitter and works out four days a week at 5.00am! With all of her responsibilities, Susan has remained an active member of St. Mark's. She was President of St. Nicholas Guild, served three days every week for many years during Lenten Lunches, and today continues to count the offerings once a month.

It has been my privilege to be Susan's Altar Guild partner for many of her years of service. She is an inspiration and a true friend. I always looked forward to our designated Sundays knowing she would grace me with her wisdom and humor as she has for all of the St. Mark's community.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:23

-- Submitted by Nancy Reed



Financials

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 08/31/2017

66.67% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,211,168	\$1,259,345
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$157,580	\$168,000
Seasonal Giving	\$10,339	\$10,000
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$291,843	\$288,318
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$254,414	\$282,199
Total Revenue	\$1,925,344	\$2,007,862
Total Expenses	\$1,714,336	\$1,870,305
Over/(Under)	\$211,008	\$137,558

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

In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru September 9, 2017)

MEMORIALS

Sally Buchanan by Robert Buchanan

Light Cummins by Mollie and Bartell Zachry

Mark Judson by Cary and Walter Bain, Shirley Blevins, Paula and Mike Chalk, Kait and Matthew Gish, Sarah Joe and Philip LeMessurier, Carolyn and John Meyer, Laura and Jim McNutt, Amy and David Phipps, Kelly Ranson, Anne and Jeff Rochelle, Elsie Steg, Patrick Swearingen, Jr., Suzanne and John Thomas, Weaver and Tidwell, Jill and George Vassar, Elizabeth and Cliff Waller, Page and Lyman Webb, Chica and John Younger, Mollie and Bartell Zachry

Tom O'Connell by Patsy and Clay McCaughy

William Parker by Linda Seeligson

Ann Tiner by Elizabeth and Cliff Waller

Evaristo & Victoria Vasquez by Adelina Rodriguez

GARDEN FUND

Barbara Holder by Jody Kelly

ST. CECILIA GUILD

Lillian Kimmerly by Ann Coiner, Polly and George Spencer, Allison and Joshua Zeller

Mark Judson by Sue Bain, Sarah Joe and Philip LeMessurier, Betsy Simpson

Ann Tiner by Betsy Simpson

Evaristo & Victoria Vasquez by Adelina Rodriguez

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Mark Judson by Lory and Darrell Zimmerman

SPECIAL GIFTS

To Children's and Youth Ministries **in honor of the baptism of Benjamin Fregosi** by Jane Brackett, Charlotte O'Brien and Nancy O'Brien

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**



Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

Cost: \$8.00 adults | \$6.00 children (under 6 yrs old) - No Cafe Kairos November 22 - 23

OCTOBER 4-5
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Sautéed Green Beans
Garlic Bread Sticks
Garden Salad
Cheesecake

OCTOBER 11-12
Chicken and Beef Chalupas
Spanish Rice
Charro Beans
Garden Salad
Lemon Cake

OCTOBER 18-19
Chicken Piccata
Sautéed Broccoli
Rice Pilaf
Garden Salad
Chocolate Pie

OCTOBER 25-26
Hamburger Sliders
Hot Dogs
Tater Tots
Garden Salad
Cup Cakes
Chocolate Pudding "Dirt"

NOVEMBER 1-2
Brisket with BBQ Sauce
Potato Salad
Pinto Beans
Garden Salad
Pie

NOVEMBER 8-9
Chicken Tetrazinni
Sautéed Broccoli
Garlic Bread Sticks
Garden Salad
Cake

NOVEMBER 15-16
Turkey
Dressing
Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy
Dinner Rolls
Green Beans
Cranberry Sauce
Blackberry Cobbler

NOVEMBER 29-30
Chicken Pot Pie
Sautéed Broccoli
Dinner Rolls
Garden Salad
Pie

Photos in this Issue

Cover photo: Rachel Dugger

Photos in this issue provided by: Dina Aboul Saad, Rachel Doyle, Rachel Dugger, Eric Nelson, and Abby Richards