



Giving Thanks....



Giving Back

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Issue 8

November 2013

Giving Back...Through *Flourish in Faith*

As our new Education/Preschool Building takes shape before us, we can continue to envision the ministries that will be flourishing within those walls. While the construction of the building is important, what are even more important are the learning, the fellowship, and the deepening of faith that will occur on that concrete foundation. The building is a reality thanks to the successful *Growing in Grace* capital campaign. Our ongoing ministries will be supported through the annual stewardship campaign for the St. Mark's operating budget 2014. Learn more about *Flourish in Faith*, this year's annual campaign, by reading the church bulletin inserts, hearing stewardship testimonials on Sunday, or talking to members of St. Mark's stewardship commission.



Framing of the First Floor Walls

Giving Back...through the Giving Tree

Christmas is a time of wonderful traditions, and one of our favorites at St. Mark's is the Christmas "Giving Tree." This year once again our giving will focus on abused or neglected children and teens of Fort Bend County who currently are under the care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Gifts from our "Giving Tree" will be taken to the Rainbow Room, an all-volunteer, charitable organization dedicated to helping Fort Bend infants, children and teens in crisis. In 2012, there were 2,558 reported cases of child abuse in Fort Bend County with 2,208 cases being assigned for investigation. All of these children are eligible for services in the Rainbow Room.



Giving Back...through Pet Food Donations for Shelter Animals

How can you help?

- Starting Sunday, November 17th, visit the "Giving Tree" banner and look for angel and star ornaments. An item needed for the Rainbow Room's Christmas Project will be written on each ornament.
- Select one or more items to give by taking the ornament(s) from the banner tree.
- By **Sunday, December 8th**, return the *unwrapped* gifts and the ornaments to the Church.

Thank you for helping with this worthwhile endeavor which provides hope and dignity to abused and neglected children in Fort Bend County.

Giving Thanks...

Give thanks to God before your family's Thanksgiving meal. Cut out this beautiful prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*, page 246 and share it at your table.



Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Lynnett Alderson Makes Her Mark



**Bettye Newberry, Arlene Rivenes,
and Vince and Vincent Arnold
Make an Impression**

A LASTING IMPRESSION...



On Sunday, October 6, all members of the St. Mark's family had the opportunity to leave a lasting impression on the beautiful campus of St. Mark's. To celebrate the pouring of the foundation for our new Education/Preschool Building, everyone was asked to make an impression in fresh concrete outside the church building. Some placed a small plaque with names and/or special words. Others placed a small object with special meaning into the concrete, wrote their initials or even made hand prints. After construction, the "Make Your Mark" concrete form will be incorporated into our future campus.