

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting
January 28, 2018**

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Annual Parish Meeting
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Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
2. Rector's Report
3. Senior Warden's Report
4. Junior Warden's Report
5. Finance & Stewardship Report
6. Head of School Report
7. Appreciation & Presentation of Gifts
8. Closing Prayer & Adjournment

Rector's Report — The Rev. Mark Crawford

I would like to thank the Vestry for extending me a call to become your Interim Rector as of November 1, 2017. Although I have only been with you all for two months, I have enjoyed leading the worship and ensuring the ministries are on-going at St. Mark's Church. I have worked closely with Alysoun Marks, Senior Warden and Rock Moen, the Treasurer as well as other members of the Vestry to ensure a smooth transition in this interim period. I would also like to thank Melissa Hamon, our Director of Parish Life Ministries, Kimberly Hart, our Administrative Secretary and Sandy Barkerding who keep the office and ministries running smoothly.

We expect 2018 to be another year of growth and development for the parish and school. You'll see from the report of the school that the enrollment has increased to 44 children. Although, the Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) was 105 last year, new people are visiting and joining St. Mark's Church.

I hope and pray that all of you will continue to work, pray and give for the spread of God's Kingdom in Richmond and the surrounding areas of Fort Bend County. Once the road construction along FM 762 is completed, St. Mark's Church will be in a much better situation for increased growth.

Please pray for the members of your Search Committee and Vestry who will be actively engaged in the search for a new rector for St. Mark's. We hope and pray the search process will be completed this year of 2018.

Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Rev. Mark T. Crawford
Interim Rector

Senior Warden Report — Mrs. Alysoun Marks

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

After Moses died, Joshua must have felt very comforted hearing these words from God. After forty years in the wilderness, leading God's people into the Promised Land was no small task. Parish transitions can feel like wilderness experiences sometimes. Here at St. Mark's, we are truly blessed by God's faithfulness, generosity, love and grace.

Our leadership has remained engaged and discerning through this past year. The year started out with much attention focused on developing a long-term strategy for being a "light in the woods" in Richmond as neighborhoods grow and develop around us. This is in keeping with our mission to know Jesus Christ, and make him known. In January, Father Bert and I began to discuss what he referred to as "the inside-out church." St. Mark's had Ashes-on-the-Go for the first time this year. We also made a prayer garden in the front yard with Stations of the Cross, which was open for the public. We began to think about other ways we could be the "light" to passers-by and bring the church out of its walls, to the people of Richmond and the surrounding areas.

Midway through the year, we were faced with the challenge of saying good-bye to our Rector. Again, leadership has faithfully risen up to the tasks required to navigate through this transition. The Vestry met with Diocesan leadership to begin this journey. We were blessed with a variety of outstanding supply clergy, several of whom are Diocesan leaders. We were, again, greatly blessed when Father Mark Crawford agreed to serve as our Interim Rector. He brings much experience with him, not only in pastoral care, teaching and leadership, but also with churches in transition.

Each of you were asked to participate in this transition process by filling out an online parish assessment questionnaire, and there was strong participation from our congregation. We appointed a Profile Committee to piece together information from St. Mark's that will be viewed by prospective candidates and the community about the church, and the qualities of our desired rector. I can't express enough gratitude to Barbara Scheibner and Bill Abbott for the number of hours and the quality of work that they put into developing this profile.

If this wasn't challenging enough, in August Hurricane Harvey paid our community a visit. It truly warmed my heart to see how members of our parish ministered to one another and others in our neighborhoods throughout this storm, and in the months to follow. All the while, through transition, through weather, throughout the year, our ministry leaders have faithfully and quietly continued to serve. Our youth and adult Christian formation classes have continued. The Men's Group, ECW and DOK have continued to meet. Our altar guild has been devoted. Our music and worship ministries have remained active. Our outreach ministries, such as Meals on Wheels, Kid's Hope, Lunches of Love and the Sewing Guild have all been dedicated.

One of the things this year that has excited me the most, is the wonderful team that has dealt and negotiated with County and State regarding the road expansion projects in our area. Rock Moen, Brad Knecht and Lee Leaman, along with help from the Diocese, has done an excellent job leveraging our resources to put us in an excellent position for growth through this expansion and in years to come. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for the savvy expertise that they have demonstrated in securing top value for our property and positioning our property in the most logically advantageous position possible after the road projects are complete.

Even though at times, it feels as if we are in a wilderness experience, I have confidence that God truly is with us. He is preparing us for a bright future. As we remain faithful to him, he surely remains faithful to St. Mark's. And just as he was with Joshua and the Israelites, the Lord our God is with us, wherever we may go.

Yours in Christ,



Alysoun Marks
Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report — Mr. Brad Knecht

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." - I Peter 4:10

It has been my honor to serve as Junior Warden for St. Mark's in 2017. Two main transitions provided for a very eventful year. The Vestry approved a tight but balanced budget at the beginning of the year that required some creative thinking from a property perspective. Road construction and future transportation plans have caused St. Mark's to begin considerations of our own future plans.

I'd like to start with thanking Kim Janke for taking on the responsibility of maintaining our grounds. Joanie O'Niell quickly stepped up and assisted Kim as they shared the responsibility and deserves a huge thank you for her service. We as a Vestry approved the annual budget with no money appropriated for landscaping. Kim and Joanie became a critical piece of the puzzle for a successful year. A third thank you goes out to Michelle D'Antuano for helping us find Carlos, who we signed on to maintain the grounds late in the year.

With the help of Rob Hamon, we were successful at finding and signing a less expensive contract for the next three years for our electricity needs. Rob has also conducted an energy audit of our facility that will enable us to continue at reducing our overall electricity expenses. We have also had our air conditioning systems evaluated looking for cost savings options. We have found that an annual maintenance contract for these systems is necessary for long term sustainability and cost effectiveness.

We lost a total of 12 trees in 2017, five as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Losing trees seems to be something that we will continue to have to deal with in the future. Replacement of trees is subject to location and the overall site development that has yet to be finalized.

Expansion of FM-762 consumed many hours of meetings and discussions. I would like to thank Rock Moen for leading the St. Mark's efforts on this front. There are a few systems that are impacted by this construction, as well as the planned extension of Reading Road through the center of our campus. We have re-designed our septic sprinkler system, have had lengthy discussions around redundancy of our water well, and have had to temporarily remove our electronic sign. We have also had to delay plans for additions to our campus, like the labyrinth and walking trails, until construction details are finalized.

Our future is bright and hopeful. We will be sitting on the corner of two major roads in the middle of a growing area of one of the fastest growing counties in the country. We have a beautiful piece of property with plans to fully utilize its beauty and location to engage and support our growing community. Our focus is to know God and to make him known. We have continued to plan our campus with that in mind and I believe have continued the journey to utilize this wonderful property for that purpose, which was started long before my time in service to you.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as Junior Warden for 2017, and I look forward to the journey as I continue to serve you in 2018.

In Christ's love,

Brad Knecht

Finance Report – Mr. Rock Moen

We have ended 2017 in a solid financial position. We continue to operate both our School and Church with “No Debt”. Cash Flow is sound as we proceed into 2018 with \$136,755 in our Amegy Operating Fund, \$222,893 in our Wells Fargo Capital Fund, and \$146,000 invested through our Episcopal Church Participating (Reserve) Fund. In 2017, we did receive \$20,000 less than planned in pledge income and we continue to see a carryover of reduction in pledge income for 2018, and this is a concern; however, we are blessed - our School is growing, our Community around us is growing, and our Church is growing and financially maturing. We ended 2017 positive \$6,500 which provided monies for our Rector Search. We have seen new non-pledge giving and plate offerings. For 2018 our Pledging Families are up 15% over last year including several new families, and we are receiving a much better spread of income through all who have provided commitments. Our 2018 Budget is complete and has been approved by our Vestry and delivers a planned positive revenue outcome. We are also blessed with Father Mark Crawford who is supporting and leading us through this transition with grace and experience needed as we look to our future.

In 2017, through negotiations with both Fort Bend County and Texas Department of Transportation we received funds totaling \$203,117.50 for .76 acres needed for the widening of FM762. We are in process of having our digital sign refurbished and upgraded with new digital color graphic boards and will be erected in a new location after our state completes initial road preparation.

Although we request for our parish families to give unconditionally to St. Mark’s and in support of our Church knowing that our Vestry provides leadership to spend God’s money where needed. We must either have a Budget Line Item or a Temporary Restricted Fund to receive special monies from those wishing to give to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church towards a special interest. However, if a parish member is wishing to give monies to a special need where we currently do not fund, we welcome them to present to our Vestry in person or through a Vestry member with an explanation and our Vestry will need to explore and approve so a new budget line item can be created to support the contribution and spend.

We are very grateful for all in our St. Mark’s Family and we appreciate all that you provide for our Church and our Ministries.

2018 St. Mark's Operating Budget
Update January 22, 2018

INCOME	2018 Budget
Contributions	
Pledge Payments	281,676
Non-Pledge	13,500
Plate Offering	7,000
Subtotal Contributions	302,176
Other Income	
Income from Temp Restricted Funds	12,760
Miscellaneous Income	500
Subtotal Other Income	13,260
TOTAL INCOME	315,436
 EXPENSES	
STAFF COMPENSATION	
RECTOR	
Stipend	11,286
Housing	7,437
SS Reimbursement	1,857
Pension	2,366
Interim Rector	18,750
Interim Rector SS Reimbursement	3,773
Interim Rector Mileage	3,600
Subtotal Rector	49,069
STAFF	
Director of Parish Life	30,000
Dir. of Parish Life 403B	2,700
Parish Administrator	23,279
Parish Administrator 403B	2,005
Organist/Music Director	23,500
Financial Secretary	6,070
Sexton 1	14,400
Sexton 403B	1,296
Nursery Attendant (ALL)	4,000
Subtotal Staff	107,250
SUPPLY CLERGY&ORGANIST	
Supply Clergy	2,000
Supply Organist	1,000
Subtotal Supply Clgy & Org.	3,000
EMPLOYER EXPENSES	
Employer - SS/Medicare	7,896
Workers Comp Insurance	2,020
Subtotal Employer Expenses	9,916
TOTAL STAFF COMPENSATION	169,235

EXPENSES	DIOCESE OF TEXAS	
Assessment	23,135	
Insurance Assessment	2,602	
Subtotal Diocese Of Texas	25,737	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Comprehensive Insurance	18,000	
Advertising/Communications	1,000	
Office Supplies	2,500	
Computer Software	100	
Postage/Stamps	500	
Payroll Processing	3,600	
IT Service Contract	8,000	
Cell Phones	630	
Website	480	
Copier Maintenance	2,500	
Miscellaneous	500	
Subtotal Admin. Expenses	37,810	
BUILDING & GROUNDS		
UTILITIES		
Electricity	17,000	
Phone / Internet	14,500	
Water & Sewer	2,400	
Gas	500	
Waste	3,600	
Subtotal Utilities	38,000	
BUILDING MAINTENANCE		
Pest Control	1,300	
Alarms - Fire/Burglar	1,500	
Elevator Service Contract	4,200	
Inspections/Compliance	2,400	
Repairs/Maintenance	8,000	
Kitchen/Bathroom Supplies	2,800	
Subtotal Building Maint.	20,200	
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
Lawn Service/Landscaping	5,000	
Subtotal Grounds Maintenance	5,000	
TOTAL ADMN & BLDG/GRNDS	126,747	
MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS		
SOCIAL OUTREACH		
Local Outreach	1,000	
Kids Hope USA	600	
Subtotal Outreach	1,600	

EXPENSES	CHRISTIAN FORMATION	
	Godly Play - CF	150
	Kids Kingdom - CF	300
	Youth - CF	250
	Adult - CF	200
	Vacation Bible School	500
	Forward Day by Day	160
	Confirmation/Baptism Gift	200
	Lenten Series	200
	Subtotal Christian Formation	1,960
	GROUPS & MINISTRIES	
	Altar Guild - Ministry	1,500
	EYC : Youth Ministry	300
	Newcomers - Ministry	600
	Sewing Guild	500
	ECW - Ministry	770
	Men's Group - Ministry	150
	Prime Timers	400
	Subtotal Groups & Ministries	4,220
	MUSIC	
	Music General	2,000
	Copyright Licensing	500
	Piano Tuning	300
	Guest Musicians	500
	Subtotal Music	3,300
	CLERGY ACCOUNTS	
	Rector's Disc Fund	500
	Rector's Hospitality	400
	Clergy Continuing Ed	300
	Subtotal Clergy Accounts	1,200
	IN PARISH EXPENSES	
	Sunday Hospitality	1,000
	Special Events	750
	Christmas Pageant	50
	Liturgy Worship Supplies	600
	Altar Flowers	250
	Advent / Christmas Greens	500
	Nursery Supplies	50
	Subtotal In Parish Expenses	3,200
	OTHER EXPENSES	
	CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	
	Diocesan Council	1,250
	Subtotal Other Expenses	1,250
	Subt. Ministries & Programs	16,730
	TOTAL EXPENSES	312,712
	TOTAL INCOME/LOSS	2,724

Director of Parish Life — Mrs. Melissa Hamon

Looking back over 2017, what a year! It was a year of tremendous change and transition. It has been a time of saying goodbyes to dear friends and preparing our parish family for a new rector. In this report I will go over some of the highlights of our parish life.

The first ministry that comes to my mind is the Newcomer's Ministry because that is the first ministry that most people encounter when they walk through the doors of St. Mark's. Our great team of ushers do a wonderful job of making sure everyone that walks through our doors is greeted with a smile and a feeling of home, even if it is their first visit. Our ushers make sure that everyone is comfortably seated, the environment is comfortable and are there for questions and directions

Our first full year of signing up for weekly snacks has been a real success. I love that I remind everyone that the new sheet is on the board for signing up and it is usually filled by the end of the Sunday that I post it. Our parish family is still one of hospitality and warm welcomes.

Our most successful newcomer tool is the Newcomer's Class. In 2017 we updated the PowerPoint presentations to reflect our growth and new church logo. We continue to have the classes on Sunday afternoons, which seems to work best for most of our families. The rector and I conduct the classes and we all have lunch together, but with the new presentations, we are able to streamline the class so that our families can spend more of their Sundays together. We continue to follow up the following Sunday with the Liturgy of Belonging which formally introduces the new members to the congregation.

During 2017 we hosted a pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday, 2 Lenten Dinners with Calvary Episcopal and 3 Fish Fries. The fish fries raised a considerable amount of money for our youth scholarship fund. We were in turn able to offer scholarships to Camp Allen and bring down the cost of the annual mission trip significantly for our youth. I appreciate everyone that helped with all of those events.

In 2017, I had the pleasure to work with Brad Knecht, our current junior warden, who made my job much easier, as property management is not my strongest talent. Because of budget cuts, I went from a full time to a part time employee. The job of property management fell squarely on the Junior Warden's shoulders. My time in the office is mainly focused on the parish family and programs, but I still make repair calls, compose bids for vestry approval, and arrange for all church and school safety inspections.

As we say goodbye to 2017 and look forward to 2018, I can't wait to see what God has in store for St. Mark's. Our future is full of exciting potential. It is a journey that we go through as a family, together.

St. Mark's Episcopal School Report — Dr. Suzanne Welch, Head of School

If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies.

- Unknown



This year, we are learning to accept change. I am truly blessed to have a group of educators who are willing to collaborate, be persistent and give grace to others. Great things continue to happen at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

The mission of St. Mark's Episcopal School is to encourage spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development in young children through an enriched curriculum, rooted in the Christian faith. Within a nurturing Christian community, St. Mark's Episcopal School builds in each child the foundation for good character and a lifelong love of learning. St. Mark's Episcopal School philosophy is to foster an early childhood education which honors the unique value and beauty of all children as creations of a loving, empowering God.

St. Mark's Episcopal School integrates spiritual formation, joyful discovery, and playful creativity into our daily curriculum, enabling children to reach their full potential. At St. Mark's Episcopal School, the curriculum is designed to provide learning experiences that have measurable learning objectives at each age level. The classroom units provide a broad range of content that is socially relevant, intellectually engaging and personally meaningful to the children. The units incorporate a variety of approaches and teaching methodologies that meet the needs of a wide range of learning differences. The learning areas are pre-reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art, gardening, music, fine motor and gross motor development, and social/emotional development. Throughout the Active Learning Centers in each classroom, the teacher allows the children to link their life experiences with each unit that is being taught. A variety of distinctive learning opportunities provide individual and group interactive learning experiences with selected materials.

Since August 25, 2014 our enrollment has grown from 13 to 44 students. Our capacity for enrollment is 65 students with five classrooms open and operating. Our goal is to increase enrollment. We continue to increase public awareness of our wonderful school. Teachers, Staff, Board Members and Church Members have helped by passing out pens with our information, sending goodie baskets to targeted schools with information, put up lawn signs, helped with Trunk or Treat, increased our Facebook presence, and we have a YELP account.

We ended the 2016-17 School year with 30 students, but 14 students graduated to Kindergarten. We began the 2017-18 school year with 26 students and we are up to 44 students as of this week. We have received additional inquiries and will be following up with the families.

We were blessed by the addition of a picnic table for our playground. I want to thank Dwayne Dawlearn for donating the picnic table. Students have enjoyed the table since we put it out on the playground. We appreciate all donations and services given to our school.

I have been associated with St. Mark's School for two years. During my tenure we have celebrated Thanksgiving with a school wide feast with parents, collected gifts for the Angel Tree, the student Angel Choir participated in the Hanging of the Greens celebration, St. Nicholas visited the students, and we celebrated Jesus' Birthday. We began the year with Hurricane Harvey which delayed the start of school. Recently we have weathered ice storms which have caused the school to close. We continue to push forward, and know exciting things are happening at St. Mark's.

Our staff includes a variety of highly trained and talented professionals.

Head of School – Dr. Suzanne Welch
Office Manager – Jerri Carington
School Chaplain – Lynnett Alderson
Technology Teacher – Kim Fletcher
18 Month Classroom Teacher – Karina Martinez
18 Month Classroom Assistant – Dana Mitchell
Toddler Classroom Teacher – Lynnett Alderson
Toddler Classroom Assistant – Jordan Bingham, Haleigh Gaskin
Three Year Old Classroom Teacher – Mary Paul
Three Year Old Classroom Assistant – Clarissa Munoz
Four Year Old Classroom Teacher – Amanda Raska
Bridge to Kindergarten Classroom Teacher – Kati Kocian
Four Year Old and Bridge Classroom Assistant – Kris Bliss
BAC Classroom Assistants – Michelle Buckner, Hadley Perez, Haleigh Gaskin, Clarissa Munoz, Kris Bliss, Jordan Bingham.

St. Mark's Episcopal School is a Texas State Licensed facility. We are currently working to become accredited with the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). The SAES accreditation process is approved by the Texas Private Schools Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC) and recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Generous supporters and contributors to our Annual Fund make it possible for St. Marks to extend scholarships and tuition assistance to our school families. Please contact the school if you wish to contribute to the annual fund.

St. Mark's Episcopal School is a ministry that mirrors our Episcopal identity as it provides an exemplary early childhood education program rooted in Christian values. Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged. Please contact the school if you would like to volunteer!

Acolytes/Chalice Bearers – Mrs. Kathy Barzilla & Mr. Benno Scheibner

Being an acolyte is a great way to learn about the importance of the liturgy in the Episcopal Church. You get the opportunity to grow in faith by serving others during the service. We have a Verger, Crucifer, two Torch Bearers and sometimes a Gospel Bearer scheduled at services. St. Mark's has three Vergers that lead processions and prepare the nave for worship: Kathy Barzilla, Phyllis Janke and Benno Scheibner. We are so thankful for the consistent involvement of our youth and adult acolytes who are all very dedicated to serving in this capacity. We continue to have growth in both our adult and youth acolyte ministries and are excited about training more adults to serve as Crucifer and the possibilities for more youth Torch Bearers in 2018. Benno Scheibner and Kathy Barzilla serve as the acolyte trainers. We can train acolytes at any time. If anyone is interested in serving as an acolyte at St. Mark's, please contact Benno Scheibner at barbs4@earthlink.net or Kathy Barzilla at Kat102193@windstream.net.

Adult Christian Formation – Mr. Rob Hamon

Adult Christian Formation. Bible study is both personal and communal, and our Sunday morning Adult Christian Formation classes examine several ways to do both. These sessions introduce, then practice, communal study methods. This means we use both class time as well as personal study to seek and better know God's word.

"The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith." (David Lose, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

The year past was witness to some new approaches to our more traditional Bible study classes. But we did so without leaving our earlier studies behind. During winter and spring, we completed the Kerygma course: "Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah". The course picked up where we left off with Advent 2016 and continued through the season of Lent 2017, and again offered a careful examination of the scriptural texts that give Handel's Messiah its biblical foundation. As before, we listened to relevant portions of the music in support of our discussions of Christ's passion, crucifixion, and resurrection.

After a (very hot) summer break, we started the new material last fall with a course from David Lose and his "Making Sense of ..." series of directed studies. The particular study we chose was "Making Sense of Scripture", which delved deep into the following questions.

- What Is the Bible?
- Is the Bible True?
- How Is the Bible the Word of God?
- Where Did the Bible Come From?
- How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding?
- Is There a "Center" to Scripture?
- What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?

In 'Making Sense of Scripture', David Lose invites the reader to engage in a conversation, one that he imagines discussing around his kitchen table, about these seven questions. More than a standard biblical reference book, 'Making Sense of Scripture' is a dialogue that encourages readers to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the reader to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind.

This study was well received and we anticipate using more from this series in 2018.

Finally, the year drew to a close with Fr. Mark Crawford leading a series of studies via readings from the Gospel of Mark. These included an introduction to the Gospel, followed by a focus on the ‘Apocalypse of Mark.’ And if you want to know what that phrase refers to, then we suggest you join our studies this year!

Altar Guild – Ms. Bettye Newberry

Members, Ruthie Hurta, Elisa Hughes, Ann Chrisman, Isobel Gotshall, Lisa Arnold, Susan Hylton, Sandy Barkerding, Bonnie Knecht, Suzanne Mottin, Michelle D’Antuono & Sally Yates were very busy this past year. A special thank you to our oil angels Sally & Charlie Yates along with the ironing fairy Jeri Culber-son.

I find this ministry a great honor to set the Lords table for each Sunday.

We are always open to adding new members. See Father Mark or Bettye Newberry.

Children’s Chapel – Mrs. Anne Geraci & Mrs. Shan Harris

Children’s Chapel was started in the fall of 2014. We started meeting the first Sunday of the month during the 9:00am service. In the last few years, we have anywhere from 4 or 5 to 9 kids in attendance each time. (And we would love to grow that number!)

In the summer of 2016 we made significant changes to the format. That fall we started meeting on both the 2nd and 4th Sundays and envisioned our chapel to more accurately mimic a traditional service. We added an Order of Service, Crucifer and Acolytes to our existing Creed, Bible Lesson and Prayers of the People (with each child’s contribution to the prayer list).

We meet at the side doors and process to our chapel (classroom D). Each kid shares a special prayer with an acolyte (a member of the Kid’s Kingdom aged-kids) and then we sing our welcome song and the kids take their place in the “pews”. We say a creed, sing more songs and have a “sermon” from a wonderful educational tool called “The Jesus Storybook Bible”. We then do a Prayers of the People, where, the Acolyte reads each of the child’s special prayer request. We finish with a song and process back to “big church” before communion.

This last year, we lost Mrs. Anne Geraci as a leader, due to her relocation. Several members of the congregation have stepped up to participate in order to fulfill our Safeguarding standards. Attendance has not been consistent, but we have served anywhere from 2-11 children on the Sundays we offer Children’s Chapel.

Christian Formation Grades 7-12 – Mrs. Chris Abbott

During the spring term the secondary Christian Formation class included youth in grades 7-12. In the fall term that was changed to include youth in grades 6-12.

Spring 2017

Following the suggestion of Jamie Martin-Currie from the Diocese of Texas, the 7-12 grade class continued to use the *Real and Relevant* curriculum in the spring of 2017. Chris Abbott adapted the lessons and taught the class each week. The curriculum follows a lectionary based format. Scripture readings are

most often based on the New Testament, but occasionally an Old Testament reading is also used. The lessons provided the youth with an opportunity to dig deeper into the scripture reading, God, Jesus and their faith. Movie clips were often used to emphasize a point and bring current day issues to light following the scripture reading.

In addition to the *Real and Relevant* curriculum in the spring, the class carefully followed Lent Madness to track the competition as the thirty-two nominees competed for the Golden Halo. The group learned quite a bit about the nominees and was supportive of the voting that found Florence Nightingale as the 2017 winner of the Golden Halo. A Lent Madness Pep Rally was held on Palm Sunday so the whole parish could be aware of the “faithful four candidates” in the competition.

Fall 2017

The fall term for Christian Formation for youth in grades 6-12 ran ten weeks. The curriculum for the class is now titled *Teen Text*. This curriculum was selected with the guidance of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary. *Teen Text* is a lectionary based program that helps youth connect scripture with their lives. In addition to the scripture lesson, the program includes occasional movie clips, classical and contemporary art, music and poetry which connect our culture with scripture and everyday lives. Topics for discussion in the fall term included solving disputes, forgiveness, generosity, consumer culture, selfish ambition, trusting in God, justice, patience, idolatry, etc.

Other instruction included time spent learning about the selection of new saints by the Catholic Church and the CNN Heroes for 2017.

Each week Chris Abbott communicates with both the parents and youth via email to give everyone a preview of what to expect in that week’s lesson.

Special thanks go to Dr. Charlie Yates for his service as a substitute for Chris Abbott. Additional thanks go to Isobel Gotschall, Charlie Yates, Gray Baldwin and Frank D’Antuono for their participation to satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God’s Children.

Daughters of the King (DOK) – Mrs. Jeri Culberson

The Vision Statement of Daughters of the King, is empowered by the Holy Spirit, or vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make him known to others, and to be a reflection of God’s love throughout the world.

2017 has been a year of growth of our Order. We have instituted a new program entitled “Moment of Truth,” in an effort to get to know each other and to emerge as sisters in an effort become more effective in our Spirit of Evangelism, Service, and prayer.

We have been active in preparing food, freezing it and placing it in the freezer of the kitchen of the church, in order to aid families in their time of grief or distress with medical or family emergency. Our members have worked very hard to keep the freezer full, in times of need.

We also endeavor to send greeting cards to children with birthdays, and to let church members know that they are in our thoughts and prayers during times of crisis.

We remain dedicated to our prayers for those in times of distress, through a prayer list which we receive monthly as new families are added to the list.

I would like to recognize my gratitude to our members who have diligently responded to the needs of our Chapter of Mary of Bethany, and are the reflection of God's love throughout the world.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) – Ms. Bettye Newberry & Mrs. Barbara Scheibner

If you are a woman and attend St. Mark's, you belong to Episcopal Church Women (ECW)! The National Episcopal Church Women was created to support all women in their Mission and Ministry in the world empowering the women of The Episcopal Church to carry out Christ's work.

To this end, St. Mark's ECW makes a difference by touching lives through fellowship, spiritual growth and outreach. In 2017, as always, the women of St. Mark's provided the leadership role in preparing for parish meals and special events and being integral members of parish ministries.

In January 2017 ECW held its annual retreat at The Leaman's Eagles Nest Ranch. This retreat was designed for fellowship, spiritual growth, cooking togetherness, and both "freeform" and planned activities. Visits to the ranch's garden and eating fresh produce were favorite treats.

In September there was an ECW fall kickoff luncheon at Sandy McGee's Restaurant during which woman offered ideas for meeting the mission of ECW at St. Mark's in the future.

In October ECW hosted a trunk full of treats at the church's October 28th Trunk or Treat.

In November women enjoyed an International Potluck at the Marks' home.

There were great food and fellowship as we shared the best of our families' roots in international cooking or simply the best international dishes we love to eat.

In December ECW celebrated with its annual Women's Christmas Brunch and Gift Exchange. There were many unique gifts and delicious brunch dishes to share.

Episcopal Youth Community – Mrs. Bonnie Knecht & Mrs. Suzanne Mottin

Mrs. Bonnie Knecht and Mrs. Suzanne Mottin led EYC through May of 2017. EYC is comprised of 7th through 12th grade students. Meetings were held each month, concluding with an end of year meeting at the Mottin's house for a game night. **We are looking for adults who are interested in leading this wonderful group of teens this year. If you are interested in leading or helping please contact Melissa Hamon at the church office.**

Godly Play for Children – Mrs. Mary Moen

Godly Play is thriving and growing from 9:30am to 10:15am every Sunday, in our very special classroom!

Our curious and loving children are ages 3 to Kindergarten. And our class size has grown to 12 children, including someone always bringing a friend. Some Sundays we even have to borrow chairs from other classroom - God is good!

The class starts with a simple parable, which usually reflects our lessons for the day. We use simple Christian language and visuals, to teach our children about God's presence and abundant love for all of us

Our teachers include Suzanne Mottin, Jennifer Cantu, Brett Mottin and myself. Thank you to our parents for sharing your precious child with us, we are blessed!

KIDS HOPE USA – Mrs. Delores Baldwin

We are very fortunate to be in our 4th year of mentoring. During 2017 our mentors had a delay in starting this years program. I met with the school and discovered the ISD now has a program named L.A.M.P. This program seems to mirror image Kids Hope. However; We have been invited to return as Kids Hope. Cora Thomas Elementary also has a new program Director for KidsHope. She is also getting her feet wet. We hope to continue to nurture relationships with children at Cora Thomas Elementary School. Mentors will spend one hour each week with their children reading, playing educational games and talking about life celebrations.

We are always in need of more mentors, subs and prayer partners. If you have an hour per week and would like to enhance the learning potential and life of a child please let me know.

I am always grateful for the time our mentors, prayer partners and leadership members give to our program. I know we're impacting young lives and we are definitely filling our hearts at the same time.

Kids' Kingdom – Mrs. Chris Abbott

Kids' Kingdom provided Christian Formation for students in the first through sixth grades during the spring of 2017 and first through fifth grades in the fall of 2017.

The goal of Kids' Kingdom is to provide the youth with a Bible background presented in a unit format. A unit consists of several weeks of a single Bible story that is reinforced with activities that the students find fun and interesting. The majority of the lessons are adapted from the Workshop Rotation Model website. The weekly lesson plans are adapted and written for the teachers. Each student maintains a journal to record the memory verse and their answers to the reflection questions. At the conclusion of a unit, the Kids' Kingdom youth share with the parish by showing their completed projects. Chris Abbott oversees the program which includes writing the weekly lesson plans, coordinating the teacher assignments, sharing pictures of the group activities via email, printing pictures for the youth bulletin board in the parish hall, communicating weekly via email with the students and their families and maintaining the classroom environment. Kids' Kingdom teachers this year have included Dorothy Valencia, Sarah Baetz, Sara Hawkes, Amy Wacker, Christine Ronning, Mary Anne Simicek and Rhonda Yamauchi as an assistant. Each week one adult is responsible for teaching and the other adult assists in order to satisfy the requirements of Safe Guarding God's Children. Special thanks go to Brett Mottin who also added his assistance on multiple Sundays. Kids' Kingdom would not be possible without these dedicated individuals.

Spring 2017

Kids' Kingdom units during the spring included a study of St. Paul and his travels and Easter with a study of the events of Holy Week. Prior to the beginning of Lent the children constructed Alleluia banners that were locked away on Shrove Tuesday and then were unlocked to celebrate Easter. Activities in the St. Paul unit included a mural to walk in the footsteps of St. Paul, a Jeopardy like game with the details of St. Paul's travels, making rocky road ice cream to illustrate the difficult nature of the life that St. Paul led, a puppet show and drawing ancient Roman ships. Activities in the Easter unit included a prayer chain, a puppet show to enact the washing of the feet of the disciples, baking unleavened bread, baking "Good News Rolls" and painting suncatchers.

Fall 2017

The ten weeks of Kids' Kingdom in the fall included an Old Testament study with five weeks looking at Gideon and Samson with activities including making Samson bandanas, a readers' theater, building/destroying Samson's temple and making a FROG to fully rely on God. The second five weeks moved to

the New Testament with the birth of John the Baptist and Christmas in preparation for Advent. Activities included baking rolls, a Jeopardy game, a readers' theater, painting votive candles and drawings of a "Special Me."

The Men of St. Mark's – Mr. Benno Scheibner

The St. Mark's Men's Ministry continued to be active in 2017 with activities planned around the group's objectives:

- Spiritual growth
- Building of Relationships
- Engagement with the St. Mark's family
- Service – helping to build God's Kingdom
- Fellowship and Food

Regular meetings are held at 6:30 on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month (exceptions for Holidays, summer and special events). At each meeting, we get to know each other better, watch a short video and learn from each other through discussion. Topics for videos and discussion have included discipleship, forgiveness, mourning and prayer. We spent much of 2017 watching "Ed's Story." Chocolate chip cookies and jerky are always furnished.

In addition to the regular meetings, special meetings/activities are held throughout the year. In 2017, the Men of St. Mark's made the exceptionally good pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, provided the food for a Lenten church supper, set up tables for special events and held work days at the church to clean, repair and weed. We are particularly excited that The Outback (man cave) is ready for some male camaraderie. In addition, in January Scott Marks hosted the men at his home for a phenomenal dinner.

In 2017, we skipped our annual *Gathering of Men* at the Leaman's Eagles Nest Ranch, but there is one scheduled for February 2018. At each Gathering, over twenty men and young men attend all or part of the three-day event. New friendships are made and relationships are strengthened. Some of us shoot guns, some explore the ranch, some play Euchre and some just sit by the fire pit and relax. Much manly food is eaten.

A group of St. Mark's men also meets Thursday mornings at the Whataburger in Richmond for breakfast and fellowship. See Dwayne Dawlearn or Mat Coyle for more details.

Mission Trip – Mrs. Melissa Hamon

In late July of 2017, a group from St. Mark's embarked on a mission trip to Port Aransas to work in Corpus Christi for three days. We headed down to Port Aransas to be housed at the Mustang Island Conference Center, operated by the Diocese of West Texas. Our work crew consisted of The Rev. Bert Baetz, Melissa Hamon, Jennifer Kirkland, Brad and Bonnie Knecht and their crew of Cameron, Ashton, Summer, Bonnie, and Caden, Mary Moen, Sandy Barkerding, Philip Byerly, Cole Mottin, Sara and Macy Hawkes. Our cook team was Lee Leaman. None of the participants knew how our lives would be changed by our experiences over the next few days.

We had the pleasure to working again with the homeless mission, Mission 911. Their philosophy is that they don't believe in handouts, but in offering a helping hand to those in a crisis who sincerely want a positive change. Their primary objectives are to reach out to the "hard to work with" population in their community and provide them with shelter, meals, food supplies, transportation, opportunities to learn and use a skill, and a place to worship and learn more about God's grace. We were tasked this year of

cleaning and painting a kitchen and bathroom space in one of their out buildings used for meetings. It was a tough job and we all worked very hard to complete the work in 3 days. The last day of our work we participated in multi-group cookout with the other church youth team that was there. We also made time to visit the USS Lexington.

At lunchtime each day, our fantastic cook team brought us lunch. He also cooked us incredible breakfasts each morning and awesome dinners in the evening. Each morning we had morning prayer and closed the day with evening prayer.

We want to thank all the prayer partners that prayed for us daily. That prayer energized us all to get through a lot of hard work and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to minister to those we encountered. Your prayers meant so much to all of us.

Music & Choir – Mr. Tom Thompson

It has been such a blessing to be a part of the Music Ministry at St. Mark's. I have been so warmly welcomed into this community, and I am so grateful to God for allowing our paths to cross. The choir is doing very well; we presented our first cantata in December of 2017, and we are looking forward to offering a very dramatic and moving presentation, ***The Resurrection***, by Simon McEnery and Jeremy Davies, on Sunday, April 8. We will continue to lead the congregation in worship each Sunday, as well. In 2017, the church acquired a three-octave set of Malmark handbells. We rang several times in December. We currently have enough ringers for two octaves, and we are looking for others that we may encourage to join us so that we will be able to use all three octaves.

It is my hope that we will be able to develop a children's choir program within the next year, so please direct any interested persons to me (281.748.4746 or tthompson@stmarksfortbend.org).

We greatly appreciate your love, encouragement, and support, and we covet your prayers as we continue to grow and do wonderful things for God's kingdom.

Nursery Ministry – Mrs. Melissa Hamon

Our nursery provides wonderful care to our youngest members. 2017 was a year of change. Our nursery staff of Michelle Buckner and Shakira Patni provide the best care for our youngsters. Many of our young members graduated up to Godly Play and Children's Chapel so we are not as crowded. We have been able to offer more nursery care at special functions, Wednesday studies and special celebrations. Our sign in and sign out procedure has worked very well. Our caregivers are now able to text parents during the service if they are needed. Because of the addition of a new 18month old class, our nursery furniture and toys have been upgraded to comply with daycare standards. The room is decorated with new bright colors and it is a wonderful place for our little ones to learn from our nursery team.

Sewing Guild – Mrs. Jeanne Reaves

The Sewing Sisters sewed through all the many challenges in 2017: Harvey, the flu, hospitalizations and giving care to ourselves and to others in our families. We made 20 book pillows that were donated to Helping Hands that were given to children who were displaced by Harvey. These pillows have a special pocket to hold a child's book. We made 31 scarf hoodies that were given to Lord of the Streets, an Episcopal outreach to the homeless who live on the streets in Houston. We made 35 quilts that were donated to Texas Children's Hospital that were given to the children to be taken home. We made 10 blue jean purses that were given to the FortBend Women's shelter. We made 81 colorful pillowcases that were also given to the Ft. Bend Women's Shelter for the children.

The Sewing Sisters are very thankful for the congregation's support of their ministry. We're ready to start sewing in 2018 with joyful hearts.

Social Outreach Ministry – Ms. Isobel Gotschall & Rhonda Yamauchi

Social Outreach would like to say "thank you" to all those who contributed their time, talent and treasures to the various St. Mark's Social Outreach Programs during 2017.

LUNCHES OF LOVE is committed to helping end childhood hunger in FORT BEND COUNTY by providing a free nutritious sack lunch during extended school holidays and weekends. It began as a ministry of First United Methodist Church Rosenberg during Christmas break 2009 and fed approximately 150 children. In 2012, Lunches of Love became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is now feeding 4,000+ children and expanded the program to include 15 LCISD schools, 2 FBISD schools and a second host site, Lunches of Love at The Harvest. Lunches of Love feeds children in need and those qualifying for the state's free or reduced lunch program. St. Mark's participated in Lunches of Love by:

Donating designated food items such as jars of peanut butter & jelly, boxes of cereal & crackers, and 100% fruit juice for their food bank.

Assisting in the preparation of meals one day during August 2017 at The First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg with approximately 40 St. Mark's parishioners participating in this program.

Donating \$500 to Lunches of Love from the Social Outreach budget. Also the website www.lunchesoflove.net was provided for those wanting information on making personal monetary donations.

ST. MARK'S "GIVING TREE" is a favorite at St. Mark's. Our generous giving of gifts assisted infants, children and teens in crisis. The *Rainbow Room*, a volunteer charitable organization, is dedicated to helping Fort Bend children who are currently under the care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. We had one truck and two cars loaded with bicycles, books, and toys of all kinds that were delivered to the Rainbow Room.

CHILD ADVOCATES OF FORT BEND COUNTY is an organization that provides a voice, heals the hurt, and breaks the cycle of abuse. They provide services for children who have been abused or neglected and serve over 1,300 children per year through the help of community volunteers. St. Mark's parishioners were encouraged to buy tickets to the CASA *Christmas Home Tour*. Proceeds from these tickets benefit Child Advocates. St. Mark's donated \$300 from its social outreach budget to Child Advocates of Fort Bend County.

GULF COAST REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER welcomed members of St. Mark's to donate blood. We had two blood drives this year in which 18 donations were collected.

MEALS ON WHEELS is committed to helping seniors remain independent by enhancing their quality of life through services and resources. This organization was founded in 1974 by community leaders who recognized a need to provide older adults with regular, hot meals. During its first year of service, Fort Bend Seniors provided meals to 20,000 seniors. They now provide more than 1,000 nutritious meals to seniors daily throughout Fort Bend and Waller counties. Fort Bend Seniors is the only organization in Fort Bend or Waller County that provides Meals on Wheels to all persons 60 years of age and over who are unable to cook for themselves, regardless of income. Although income is not a qualifying factor, sta-

tistics indicate that 87 percent of senior adults live at or below the poverty level. Several members of St. Marks deliver meals to seniors in Fort Bend County.

SENIORS AT GREATWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY are given calendars donated by St. Mark's parishioners who received them in the mail as 2018 was approaching. This year we delivered 25+ calendars to the Greatwood Retirement Home to help them keep track of their schedules.

THE ACTION TEAM is a partnership between St. Mark's and Calvary Episcopal Churches to help connect the church and community by helping the elderly with yard work, repairing a plumbing problem or helping someone move. Many members of St. Mark's participated in the Action Team during Hurricane Harvey cleanup as well as other times during the year.

THE FORT BEND COUNTY HEALTH CENTER is a private, nonprofit community health center that serves patients in Fort Bend County. It also operates a pediatric clinic that gives a book to all its pediatric patients. However, the center does not have enough books to give one to the siblings of its pediatric patients. This year St. Marks donated upwards of 200 pounds of books to the health center for giving to patient siblings.

HELPING HANDS assists households with emergency food and clothing on a short-term basis. They supply a safe place for people to receive the help they need and give the community the opportunity to reach out and serve their neighbors. St. Mark's has donated \$300 to Helping Hands and many parishioners make individual donations.

FORT BEND WOMENS CENTER, established in 1980, provides programs to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault escape abuse and move forward to build independent lives, free of violence and fear. Donating to PennyWise Resale Centers helps bring Healing & Hope to survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault. Everything sold at the PW resale centers is used to assist women and children survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Fort Bend County. St. Mark's parishioners donate new or slightly used blankets, jackets and sweaters to be sold at the PennyWise Resale Centers.

Strategic Planning Task Force – Mrs. Alysoun Marks

"To know Jesus Christ and make him known."

This is St. Mark's mission statement, and is the driving force in the actions and decisions that we make as members and leaders of our church. When the Strategic Planning Task Force was developed, a decision was made to develop goal planning for 3-year periods. As the 2015-2017 period draws to a close, we can look back and be very proud of all that we have accomplished in the last three years. We have reached and exceeded many of our goals and made considerable progress on others.

As we are in transition, the Vestry made a decision to postpone developing strategic goals for 2018-2020 until we have called a new rector. Even though we feel very strongly that we are a vibrant and God-led parish, and that we are confident in what goals we want to accomplish, we felt that including our future rector in this process of discernment was vital in our acclimation of this relationship.

Our goals for the past three years were:

**Staff for growth and improve administrative, financial, and communication systems.
Develop a team of lay leaders with strong management and leadership skills.

**Cultivate a culture of stewardship that motivates all people to share God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure with St. Mark's.*

**Make available a wider variety of groups that meet real needs and interests.*

Objective: Improve the ministry that meets the needs of youth.

Objective: Establish a ministry that meets the needs of senior adults.

**Welcome all people into our church family through evangelism.*

**Strengthen caring relationships as St. Mark's continues to grow.*

**Expand the physical spaces for worship and use our beautiful outdoor setting in a wise way.*

**Increase the number of parishioners active in Christian Formation at each age level.*

**Engage the community in learning through the St. Mark's University.*

**Serve God's children in need through Social Outreach.*

**Provide a broad spectrum of Episcopal worship experiences.*

**Ensure a strong connection between the church and the school with mutual support.*

We have had to be patient in accomplishing some of our goals due to the road projects and rector transition. For example, the expansion of our physical spaces for worship in the form of a labyrinth and outdoor nature trail with Stations of the Cross has been postponed until we have finished negotiating our new property lines with the county and state.

However, we can be very proud of our progress on a large number of these goals. I want to note some highlights from this past year: We implemented Ashes-on-the-Go for the first time. We also created a temporary Stations of the Cross Garden that was open to the public during Lent. The Prime-Timers ministry was started to meet the needs and interests of older adults in our congregation. A new hand-bell choir was created as our new organist and choir director, Tom Thompson, continues to re-develop our music ministry. Our second year of Trunk-or-Treat attracted over 350 people from our community. St. Mark's Episcopal School now has 44 students enrolled and has expanded services with before and after school care, as well as "plus-days" where parents can leave their children in a safe environment on vacation days and date nights. A Care-Giver Support Group was established this past year to minister to those who provide care to aging parents, spouses, children or others that require special care. Our Dinner Groups have continued, as well as our Hosting Ministry, strengthening our caring relationships with one another. We have welcomed many new families into our congregation this year. And in light of Hurricane Harvey, we found ourselves reaching out to one another and to our community in ways that we had not anticipated.

I look back on the past year in all of its ups and downs and twists and turns and I feel very blessed to belong to such a wonderful, warm and generous group of people. I was very honored to be asked to serve on the Strategic Planning Commission that developed these goals in 2014. It was not only an enlightening exercise for the future of St. Mark's, but also for the direction of my personal spiritual journey. If you are interested in serving in this capacity in the future, please let me know.

Vacation Bible School – Mrs. Melissa Hamon

If you entered into the sanctuary in late June of 2017, you would have found yourself surrounded by citiscapes and super hero capes! For five wonderful days our young children experienced Super Hero Central. Each day our children would come in and go to their super hero rows with their shepherds and helpers. We had a special worship time led by our drama team and music leader, Sandy Barkerding. Our super hero children participated in a morning of Bible lessons, songs, snacks and crafts.

This year we had 36 wonderful children attend our VBS program. Our ages ranged from Pre-K 3 to third grade. Our heroes were from our congregation, school and from the surrounding community. I want to

send a special thank you to all of the adults and youth that spent a lot of time preparing, teaching and praying with us. It takes a lot of hands and hearts to put a VBS together and I had the best team around!

Caregivers Support Group - Mrs. Sandy Barkerding & Mrs. Alysoun Marks

The Caregiver Support Group meets once a month on the 3rd Thursday at noon. We read scripture, have a period of discernment and then share with each other over a brown-bag lunch. This is a small group of folks who are caring for parents, siblings, children and spouses and we support each other with prayer and love.

The Prime Timers - Mrs. Barbara Scheibner

St. Mark's Prime Timers is a ministry focusing on the unique interests and needs of older adults at least 50-years-old. The four goals of this ministry are joyful Christian fellowship, life-long learning, Christian service, and evangelism.

The Prime Timers Ministry was launched in March 2017 with an "idea" luncheon attended by 27 church members. We enjoyed lunch together and generated 46 ideas for experiences meaningful to us in our "prime".

One idea was to visit the Brookwood Community, an amazing non-profit, God-centered community that provides work opportunities, social activities, and spiritual and emotional support for adults with functional disabilities. We took a tour of the community to see the residents at their work and visited where they live and worship, had a delicious lunch at The Café at Brookwood, and then shopped at the Brookwood Gift and Garden Center.

Focusing on life-long learning, this ministry invited everyone to an Estate Planning and Law Workshop given by Christine Sampson Willie, the Managing Member of The Law Office of Christine M. Sampson, PLLC. This workshop provided information regarding wills, living trusts, living wills, power of attorney, probate and more.

Another learning experience was a workshop on Medicare providing information on and answering questions on the choices and regulations surrounding Medicare. This important workshop was hosted by our church member and Medicare expert, Don Jozwiak.

In August The Prime Timers escaped the heat by attending a fun-filled theater production, the Cast Theatrical Company's presentation of "The Downfall of a Trusting Heart". With lively audience participation, this melodrama definitely provided delightful fellowship.

We are blessed to have Bob Carington, a retired architect, as a church member. Bob planned a lunch and tour at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston. We ate lunch at The Cloister Restaurant at the Cathedral, toured this 175-year-old Gothic house of worship, and visited the Cathedral bookstore and art gallery.

There is no such thing as retirement in the body of Christ. Those age 50+ provide countless hours of service to St. Mark's, and The Prime Timers Ministry will continue to offer to this group fellowship and life-long learning in 2018.

I thank and give thanks for the many members of our body

Vestry (2017)

Alysoun Marks (Sr Warden)
Brad Knecht (Jr Warden)
Kathy Barzilla
Michael Black
Kim Janke
Rock Moen
Rhonda Yamauchi

Executive Admin. Assistant

Kimberly Hart

Director of Parish Life

Melissa Hamon

Financial Secretary

Sandy Barkerding

Organist

Mr. Tom Thompson

Interim Organist & Music Dir.

Mary Alice Fields

Head of School

Suzanne Welch

School Board of Directors

The Rev. Bert Baetz
Alysoun Marks
Michelle D'Antuono (President)
Janice Knight
Nick Joseph
Michelle Tripulas

Treasurer

Rock Moen

Nursery Attendants

Beverly Dixon
Michelle Buckner
Shakira Patni
Amy Escobar
Hadley Herverth-Perez

Sexton

Reuben Luna
Andrew Vasquez

Stewardship Commission

Rock Moen (Chair)
Sandy Barkerding
Dorothy Dawlearn
Melissa Hamon

Finance Committee

Rock Moen (Chair)
Sandy Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla

Audit Committee

Vince Arnold (Chair)
Dorothy Valencia
Gray Baldwin
Frank D'Antuono

Budgeting Committee

Rock (Chair)
Sandy Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla
Brad Knecht

Vergers

Kathy Barzilla
Phyllis Janke
Barbara Scheibner
Benno Scheibner

Choir

Kemi Ani
Roger Barkerding
Sandy Barkerding
John Barzilla
Bill Brawn
Bob Carington
Jerri Carrington
Sophie Caruso
Bettegene Coyle
Brent Lee
Bart Little
Jeanne Reaves
Julie Stuckey
Debbie Thomas
Marilyn Turner

Handbells

Samuel Hylton
Brent Lee

Handbells (Cont'd)

Suzanne Mottin
Julie Stuckey
Debbie Thomas
Suzanna Welch

Chalice Bearers

Alexandra Arnold
Kevin Cranston
Dwayne Dawlearn
Kim Janke
Phyllis Janke
Bonnie Knecht
Susan Pinter
Sandy Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla
Mat Coyle
Brett Mottin
Barbara Scheibner
Benno Scheibner

Torchbearers

Vincent Arnold
Cole Harris
Hannah Harris
Dalton Ronning
Elizabeth Ronning
Jorge Valencia
Ashton Knecht
Cameron Knecht
Trevor Johnson
Mia Hawkes
Tim Cranston
Alice Hylton
Samuel Hylton

Lay Readers

Alexandra Arnold
Lisa Arnold
Sandra Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla
Michael Black
Bob Carington
Bettegene Coyle
Mat Coyle
Rob Hamon
Sara Hawkes
Kathy Hynson
Ruthie Hurta

I thank and give thanks for the many members of our body

Lay Readers (Cont'd)

Phyllis Janke
Debbie Thomas
Will Moen
Brett Mottin
Stephanie Udayan
Susie Brown

Altar Guild

Lisa Arnold
Delores Baldwin
Sandy Barkerding
Ann Chrisman
Jeri Culberson
Michelle D'Antuono
Isobel Gotschall
Elisa Hughes
Ruthie Hurta
Susan Hylton
Jennifer Kirkland
Bonnie Knecht
Jan Leaman
Caron Marble
Suzanne Mottin
Bettye Newberry
Dorothy Valencia
Sally Yates
Charles Yates

Wedding Guild

Sarah Baetz
Dorothy Dawlearn
Bettye Newberry

Ushers

Vince Arnold
Gray Baldwin
Delores Baldwin
Roger Barkerding
Frank D'Antuono
Michelle D'Antuono
Dwayne Dawlearn
Ruthie Hurta
Kim Janke
Rock Moen
Chris Harris
Charles Yates
Brad Knecht
Cole Mottin

Ushers (Cont'd)

Sara Hawkes
Barbara Scheibner
Suzanne Mottin
Charlie Phillips

Tellers

Bart Little
Jason Purifoy
Rock Moen
Kathy Barzilla
Alysoun Marks
Brad Knecht
Roger Barkerding
Michael Black
Kim Janke
Dorothy Valencia
Rhonda Yamauchi

Daughters of the King

Chris Abbott
Sarah Baetz
Sandra Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla
Nancy Brown
Susie Brown
Jeri Carington
Ann Chrisman
Jeri Culberson
Dorothy Dawlearn
Isobel Gotschall
Melissa Hamon
Caron Marble
Alysoun Marks
Susan Pinter
Jeanne Reaves
Barbara Ricklin
Barbara Scheibner
Jennifer Kirkland
Sara Hawkes

Spiritual Formation

Susan Pinter

Christian Formation for Adults

The Rev. Bert Baetz
The Rev. Mark Crawford
Rob Hamon

Christian Formation for Adults (Cont'd)

Charles Yates
Alysoun Marks

Christian Formation for Youth

Chris Abbott
Charles Yates
Frank D'Antuono
Isobel Gotschall
Gray Baldwin

Kids' Kingdom

Sara Hawkes
Sarah Baetz
Dorothy Valencia
Christine Ronning
Chris Abbott
Brett Mottin
Mary Ann Simicek
Shan Harris
Kathy Barzilla
Rhonda Yamauchi

EYC

Bonnie Knecht
Suzanne Mottin

Godly Play

Suzanne Mottin
Jennifer Cantu
Sarah Baetz
Mary Moen
Brett Mottin

Outreach Ministry Leader

Isobel Gotschall
Rhonda Yamauchi

Kids Hope Leadership

Delores Baldwin – *Director*
Arlene Rivenes – *Match Support Coordinator*

I thank and give thanks for the many members of our body

Kids Hope Mentors

Lisa Arnold
The Rev. Bert Baetz
Delores Baldwin
Isobel Gotschall
Darryl Mottin
Arlene Rivenes
Sally Yates

Kids Hope Prayer Partners

Sarah Baetz
Gray Baldwin
Ruthie Hurta
Mary Moen
Charlie Yates
Benno Scheibner

The Sewing Guild

Lou Cloninger
Sally Yates
Marilyn Turner
Jeannie Reaves
Bettegene Coyle
Mary Lane
Joan Little
Rhonda Yamauchi
Betty Von-Maszewski
Isabel Gotschall
Ann Chrisman
Dorothy Dawlearn
Kemi Ani
Joan O'Neill
Krystal Hart

ECW Chairs

Jennifer Kirkland
Bettye Newberry
Barbara Scheibner

Men's Group

Ministry Leaders
Benno Scheibner

Caregivers Support Group

Sandy Barkerding
Alysoun Marks

The Prime Timers

Barbara Scheibner

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
7615 FM 762
Richmond, TX 77469
(281) 545-1661
www.stmarksfortbend.org

Mission Statement

Our mission is to know Jesus Christ and to make him known.

Vision Statement

We are a people growing in our love for God and our neighbors through a life of worship, formation, and service.

Core Values

Gracious. In our relationship with Christ, God welcomes us home, and we, in turn, offer gracious hospitality to all those whom God leads to our church.

Rooted. Our worship and liturgy are rooted in the rich tradition of the Episcopal Church, drawing on the wellspring of customs from the ancient church through those of today.

Authentic. We are an authentic people, true to our Christian identity, and genuinely thankful for the gift of our gathering and for the sacred space of our church.

Christ-centered. We are the church, the Body of Christ, and we therefore have Jesus Christ at the center of our life; for in the risen Christ we live and move and have our being.

Empowered. Jesus commissions us to go to all nations with his good news, and we, the people of St. Mark's, are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim by word and example the Gospel in Fort Bend County and beyond.