

St. Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting
January 27, 2019**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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. Susie Comer

There is so much faithfulness, talent, skill and energy in this room. God is with us, and we are his people. May God bless St. Mark's this coming year! It is a wonderful future we have together! As I have been getting to know you all at St. Mark's, I see a generous, welcoming community which is amazingly receptive to change; ready to try new things, and a community that is weekly welcoming new folks. Most of us are new – you know how it feels to be a seeker of a church community with which to worship God and serve.

I am grateful to God for a talented and motivated church staff, for the search committee that worked hard and faithfully in their search for a new rector. For all the people of this church who volunteer their time and skills in so many ways, both in the church and out in the community. For the vestry, treasurer and wardens, who worked so hard to run the church in the absence of a full-time rector. For Rev. Mark Crawford, who served so well as St. Mark's Interim Rector. For our school, in which we serve our community and are raising up children in an educational program that follows episcopal values. For the new Directors of St. Mark's school, Jeri Carington and Lynnett Alderson, who are committed to having a self sufficient school that is thriving.

As your newly called rector, it is humbling to realize that you are actually placing trust in me to lead you forward, with a vision that has been sought in prayer and consultation with other church members.

So, with that in mind, I see some things that I hope to set in place in 2019.

Worship

A changed worship schedule will begin next Sunday, February 3 and we will be busy! 7:30 rite I, 9:00 – Rite II – especially welcoming of busy families and kids, 10:00 formation for everyone and 11:00 Rite II with Choir. Busy families need such a schedule, and our growth needs such a schedule. We will return to two services for June, July and August, and evaluate how it worked. Additionally, if you miss church on Sunday there is always a half service on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. We have the most fantastic music director, choir and handbell choir! I look forward to working with Tom to have creative worshipful music in our services! It turns out that I like to write hymn texts and he loves to compose music! Isn't that a wonderful collaboration for our worship? More worship services also means more work for the altar guild. If you have a talent for order and beauty, and setting a beautiful table, please let Bettye or me know!

Formation

We all need to learn and grow in our faith, from the littlest in Godly Play and all throughout our lives. We have wonderful programs and teachers that set them up and active for our kids and youth. We have restarted our youth program, and we have a great group of talented and motivated youth. What I am praying for is a couple that feels called to lead them. If you are feeling a pull to be youth leaders for our youth please let me know. For our adults, I am working to have topical classes on Sunday, that last a couple of Sundays, 5 or 6 Sundays in a row, beginning in Lent. Topics include: PTSD and anxiety disorders, challenges of internet and social media, management of chronic pain, and cancer treatments and the five major councils in the history of the church. In the Easter Season, I will offer a confirmation class for 4 or 5 weeks, plus makeup classes. We need to do our classes before summer because Bishop Montersso will be visiting us in mid September for confirmations. We will also be starting an ongoing adult formation class that offers an opportunity for nurture and support the challenges of parenting and busy lives. Of course there will be ongoing Bible Study offered at Noon on Tuesdays.

Pastoral Care

It is a priority of mine to see you and speak with you when you are hurting, whether you are in the hospital, at home, grieving or simply dealing with an overwhelming amount of stress. Pastoral care is at the core of my calling as a priest. I cannot come sit with you, or speak with you, if you do not let me know. Please let me know. The DOK have a great network, and they have been very helpful. If no one has called you or has come to see you, we may not know what has happening. My cell phone is in the directory. Call or text me, please. Additionally, there are plans to start divorce recovery groups, as well as grief groups, and more will be in the announcements and newsletter as they are set up.

Outreach

We as a church and as individuals grow in our faith when we feed, clothe, and visit those who are suffering. Jesus calls us to do this to help the suffering and pity the afflicted. There will be increased opportunities for you to act in faith, like the blessing bags in Advent were, so you can feed others even as you have been fed and shown mercy.

Fellowship

As we begin to worship with an additional service on Sundays, we will also be scheduling opportunities to spend time together as a church in fellowship, over shared food, both at church and in dinner groups. Please share any other ideas that you may have. That way we can see each other and celebrate each other, no matter which service we attend.

Our Budget and Stewardship

To responsibly follow Jesus, our expenses need to be in line with our income. While tightening our belts, it will be uncomfortable this coming year, it is necessary. If we want a larger budget than we have this year, our giving must grow first. In fact, one way we are keeping the budget we have is by spending the one time amount of \$28,000, which was the result of negotiating an increase from TexDot about the expansion of FM 762. In order to keep this tight budget in front of us this year in 2019. We must, as a church, have an increase of 10% in pledge and other income in 2020 just to stay even with this tight, current budget.

We have had to drastically cut our Director of Parish's hours. Melissa Hamon will now be working two days a week, Sundays and Wednesdays, essentially returning to her work of being the Newcomer Coordinator. This means that many of her responsibilities will now be done by church volunteers. Such as scouting, Vacation Bible School planning, for example.

And by the way, a useful to know when things are happening at church, is to sign up for text reminders, read the newsletter and the announcements in the bulletin.

Learning to live within our means, understanding our financial limits, is grounding for us. And I'll tell you from experience, that giving grows when we are confident about the wise use of our pledges. I and the vestry pledge to be wise and careful stewards of your financial pledges to the church. Thank you, Lord, for bringing us together! I pray that I can serve you faithfully as your rector, and that together we can continue growing and thriving, as a servant community that is active, loving, prayerful and one with each other!

Rev. Susie Comer
Rector

Senior Warden Report — Mrs. Alysoun Marks

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:18-19

I love this verse and the hope and vision that it gives me about new beginnings. It is a verse I can easily go to when I am tempted to focus on endings. This verse in Isaiah shifts my focus to all the possibilities that God has for me and my future.

My time as Senior Warden has been truly rewarding. While it has had its challenges, I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to serve God and serve the people of St. Mark's in this way. While there is some sadness about leaving my post, there is also excitement about the new direction that God is leading me.

God is also leading St. Mark's in a new direction! This year has been focused on maintaining a healthy parish life, while searching for a new rector to lead our congregation. While we were grateful for the steady leadership of Fr. Mark Crawford throughout the year, we were truly blessed to have the Rev. Susanne Comer join us in October. She and I have had many conversations about the future of St. Mark's, and the direction that God is leading us. An increase of the size of our Vestry from seven to nine members this year should be an indication of our growth and vitality.

We were not without our challenges this past year. Managing our financial resources has required extra effort from vestry members and staff due to unforeseen events, such as IT issues and dying trees. The St. Mark's Episcopal School has also required extra attention from our vestry, staff and school board members. As you all know, our Head of School, Dr. Suzanne Welch, retired at the end of the year. Also, the church has had to become more deeply involved in the school's finances and budgeting process. This has required countless extra hours of work for many people. I am truly grateful for everyone's dedication to this ministry.

As I look back on the last year at St. Mark's, the shining stars have been you. As the saying goes, “It takes a village...” Each and every one of you has made this year a success! You have faithfully attended church, pledged your time, talent and treasure, and prayed unceasingly with me for the future of our church. I do want to especially thank some specific folks that deserve special recognition:

Profile Committee: Barbara Scheibner and Bill Abbott

Search Committee: Chris Abbott, Barbara Scheibner, Bettye Newberry, Charlie Phillips, Ruthie Hurta, Brad Knecht, Dorothy Dawlearn and Kathy Barzilla

St. Mark's Staff: Kimberly Hart, Melissa Hamon, Tom Thompson, Sandra Barkerding and Reuben Luna

Vestry Members: Rock Moen, Brad Knecht, Bettye Newberry, Kim Janke, Susan Hylton and Rhonda Yamauchi

SMES School Board President: Michelle D'Antuono

SMES School Board Directors: Jerri Carington and Lynnett Alderson

All of these folks have put in countless hours behind the scenes to make our church and school run smoothly. And of course, a very special thanks to the Rev. Mark Crawford for serving us so faithfully during this transition!

Peace and Blessing to all of you and a joyous 2019!

Faithfully,
Alysoun Marks

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 2018. Two main transitions provided for a very eventful year. The Vestry approved a tight but balanced budget and 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 also 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 cheaper 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 2018, 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 out 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 off the fastest growing counties in the country. We have a beautiful piece of property with plans to fully utilize it’s 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 we have continued the journey to utilized this wonderful property for that purpose that was started before my time in service to you.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as Junior Warden for 2018 and I look forward to the journey as I continue to serve you in 2019.

In Christ’s love,
Brad Knecht

Finance Report – Mr. Rock Moen

Feeling positive as we look toward 2019 but 2018 was certainly a year of transition. Grateful for Father Mark Crawford and his leadership during this past year and excited to see Reverend Susie Comer's vision, as she leads us towards personal, outward growth and support of our surrounding community. We continue to operate our church with "No Debt" and we support our school where needed having moved our school's finances to our church software system giving all leadership much more visibility. Cash flow is sound as we proceed into 2019 with \$81,523 in our Amegy operating fund, \$151,293 in our Wells Fargo capital fund, \$101,644 invested through our Episcopal Church Participating (Reserve) Fund, and our school is making payments to our church on \$30,000 of support needed. In 2018, we received \$17,000 less than planned in pledge/non-pledge income and we continue to see a carryover of reduction in pledge income for 2019. This is a real concern; however, we are blessed - our community around us is growing, and our church is growing and financially maturing. We ended 2018 with a loss of (\$15,896) due to our pledge income shortfall, additional rector search/transition expenses than planned and increase in church operation expenses. Over the past two years, our pledging families are up 20% in total including several new families, and we are receiving a much better spread of income through all who have provided commitments. 70% of all who attend St. Mark's pledge. Our 2019 budget is complete and has been approved by our vestry and delivers a planned positive revenue outcome. We are blessed.

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.

2019 St. Mark's Operating Budget

Approved Budget January 23, 2019

INCOME

UNRESTRICTED

Pledge Payments	275,000
Pledge Non Payment 3.5%	-9,600
Non-Pledge	9,000
Plate Offering	4,000
Subtotal Unrestricted	278,400

OTHER INCOME

TR Fund Income	5,000
Building Use	0
Miscellaneous Income	3,000
Earned Income	28,170
Subtotal Other Income	36,170
Subtotal Unrestricted Income	314,570

TEMPORARY RESTRICTED

Altar Flowers	2,400
Hospitality	700
Altar Guild	2,000
DOK	175
Music	2,700
Music - Choir Robes	2,000
VBS	700
Youth Scholarship	1,000
Subtotal Temporary Restricted	11,675
TOTAL INCOME	326,245

EXPENSES

STAFF COMPENSATION

RECTOR

Stipend	44,000
Housing	24,000
SS Reimbursement	11,189
Pension	14,254
Medical	1,280
Subtotal Rector	94,723

STAFF

Newcomer Coordinator	12,000
Newcomer Coordinator 403B	1,080
Parish Administrator	23,279
Parish Administrator 403B	2,095
Organist/Music Director	23,500
Financial Secretary	7,500
Sexton 1	15,506
Sexton 403B	1,395

EXPENSES	Sexton 2	1,500
	Nursery Attendant (ALL) - 0 - 4 Year Olds	2,500
	Subtotal Staff	90,355
	SUPPLY CLERGY&ORGANIST	
	Supply Clergy	1,200
	Supply Organist	1,000
	Subtotal Supply Clgy & Org.	2,200
	EMPLOYER EXPENSES	
	Employer - SS/Medicare	6,600
	Employee Gifts	250
	Workers Comp Insurance	900
	Subtotal Employer Expenses	7,750
	TOTAL STAFF COMPENSATION	195,028
	DIOCESE OF TEXAS	
	Assessment	25,449
	Insurance Assessment	2,275
	Subtotal Diocese Of Texas	27,724
	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
	Comprehensive Insurance	21,450
	Advertising/Communications	200
	Office Supplies	2,500
	Office Furniture/Equipment	0
	Computer Software	100
	Computer Hardware	0
	Postage/Stamps	400
	Payroll Processing	850
	IT Service Contract	5,000
	Cell Phones	600
	Website	480
	Copier Maintenance	3,000
	Continued Education	0
	Miscellaneous	200
	Subtotal Admin. Expenses	34,780
	BUILDING & GROUNDS	
	UTILITIES	
	Electricity	10,000
	Phone / Internet	12,500
	Water & Sewer	2,400
	Gas	600
	Waste	4,000
	Subtotal Utilities	29,500
	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
	Pest Control	1,100
	Furniture & Equipment Bldg	0
	Alarms - Fire/Burglar	1,000
	Elevator Service Contract	3,200

EXPENSES		
	Inspections/Compliance	2,500
	Repairs/Maintenance	6,000
	Kitchen/Bathroom Supplies	2,500
	Subtotal Building Maint.	16,300
	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	
	Lawn Service/Landscaping	5,000
	Subtotal Grounds Maintenance	5,000
	TOTAL ADMN & BLDG/GRNDS	113,304
	MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS	
	SOCIAL OUTREACH	
	Local Outreach	500
	Kids Hope USA	300
	Subtotal Outreach	800
	CHRISTIAN FORMATION	
	Godly Play - CF	150
	Kids Kingdom - CF	500
	Youth - CF	250
	Adult - CF	150
	Vacation Bible School	500
	Forward Day by Day	160
	Confirmation/Baptism Gift	200
	Lenten Series	200
	Subtotal Christian Formation	2,110
	GROUPS & MINISTRIES	
	Altar Guild - Ministry	1,750
	Parish Mission Trip	0
	EYC : Youth Ministry	600
	Newcomers - Ministry	600
	Sewing Guild	600
	Stewardship - Ministry	0
	Spiritual Formation - Min.	0
	ECW - Ministry	800
	Men's Group - Ministry	300
	Prime Timers	400
	Boy Scout Troop	200
	Subtotal Groups & Ministries	5,250
	MUSIC	
	Music General	4,000
	Copyright Licensing	600
	Piano Tuning	300
	Guest Musicians	500
	Subtotal Music	5,400
	CLERGY ACCOUNTS	
	Rector's Disc Fund	0
	Rector's Hospitality	200
	Clergy Continuing Ed	1,200
	Subtotal Clergy Accounts	1,400

EXPENSES IN PARISH EXPENSES	
Sunday Hospitality	0
Special Events	800
Liturgy Worship Supplies	300
Altar Flowers	400
Subtotal In Parish Expenses	1,500
OTHER EXPENSES	
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	
Diocesan Council	1,250
Subtotal Other Expenses	1,250
Subt. Ministries & Programs	17,710
TOTAL EXPENSES	326,042
TOTAL INCOME/LOSS	203

Director of Parish Life — Mrs. Melissa Hamon

Looking back over 2018, what a year! It was a year of transition. Our wonderful interim rector, The Reverend Mark Crawford, skillfully guided us through the transition. It has been a time preparing our parish family for a new rector and welcoming The Reverend Susie Comer. In this report I will go over some of the highlights of our parish life.

During 2018, we continued the tradition of a pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday. We did change our Lenten series a bit by keeping it in house. We had a soup and salad dinner and Father Mark led us through Compline and a weekly Lenten talk. This made it possible for the choir to participate along with their spouses. We also had 2 successful fish fries that continue to raise money for youth scholarship for camp or mission trips.

Vacation Bible School was a tremendous success with numerous children from the surrounding community and our preschool participating. Our St. Mark's Youth and adults came out in full force to present Rolling River Rampage. It was a great time had by all!

The fall of 2018 marked the arrival of our new rector, Susie Comer. Reverend Susie is full of energy and excitement for St. Mark's. We are very blessed that God sent her to us.

As we say goodbye to 2018 and look forward to 2019, I can't wait to see what God has in store for St. Mark's. Our future is full of exciting potential. Please let me know if you have any ideas for programs that you would like to see at St. Mark's. It is a journey that we go through as a family, together.

St. Mark's Episcopal School Report — Mrs. Jeri Carington, Interim Administration Director & Ms. Lynnett Alderson, Interim Education Director

This year has seen many changes at St. Mark's Episcopal School. The most significant is a change in leadership. Dr. Welch resigned as Head of School at the end of November. We are thankful for the time that she was here. We are equally thankful that we were able to use our current staff to fill the void. Lynnett Alderson has been named Interim Education Director and Jerri Carington has been named Interim Administration Director. They are working as co-directors. In addition, Lynnett is continuing in her capacity as the school Chaplain and a classroom teacher.

Another change is the creation of two blended programs. At the beginning of the school year, the 18 month and 2s Toddler classes were joined. This combined classroom is headed by classroom teacher Lynnett Alderson and her morning assistant Haleigh Gaskin and afternoon assistant Melanie McQuay. In addition, the decision was made to blend the 4s classroom with the Bridge K classroom. This is under the leadership of classroom teacher Amanda Raska and her classroom assistant Michelle Buckner. Our 3s classroom remains under the direction of classroom teacher Mary Paul and her morning assistant Clarissa Munoz and afternoon assistant Alexis Landry.

We have expanded our curriculum by added enrichment programs. The first is the addition of Spanish. This program is being taught by Mary Paul during the regular school day. Secondly, we have one ongoing afternoon enrichment program provided by an outside vendor, Soccer Shots, which is provided on Thursday afternoons. We tried an afternoon dance enrichment program, but it was not successful and it has now ended. We continue to explore ways to grow and improve our lovely school.

We currently have 32 students enrolled. We continue to show the school to prospective families and hope to attract additional enrollment. To help with public awareness of our school, we have increased our social media presence with weekly updates to our Facebook page. Amanda Raska is spearheading this effort. We are exploring other ways to publicize our program. Staff members have put out lawn signs. We plan to publicize our summer program through the surrounding elementary schools in the same manner we publicize the Trunk or Treat event.

Another change is that we have an active waiting list for enrollment in January 2020. Plus we have been told that an 18 month old sibling will be joining us this summer. We have four families in the school that are expecting and the family of a graduate is expecting twins. We had our first graduate family return to us this year with a younger sibling. These are all good indications for the future of our program.

We want to extend our gratitude for the generous support of the congregation at our Gala last February. This is a key piece of our financial budget. As we ended the 2017-18 School year with a deficit, we are especially grateful for the loan extended to us by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. We began paying the loan back in January 2019. Through ongoing generous donations of parish members we continue to be able to offer scholarship to students who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Gala on Friday, April 26. Thank you for your continuing support of our combined mission to bring children up in the way of the Lord.

*Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.*
Proverbs 22:6

God bless you, Lynnett Alderson & Jerri Carington

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 four Vergers that lead processions and prepare the nave for worship: Kathy Barzilla, Phyllis Janke, Benno Scheibner and Jon Eiche.

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 2019. 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

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.

Romans chapter 12, verses 1 and 2.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Clearly, Adult Christian Formation is centered directly on this passage. Our mission takes the 'renewing of our minds' straight to heart.

This has been a short class year, as we only delivered two different courses in the spring and late summer. The first was a course selected from David Lose and his "Making Sense of ..." series, titled "Making Sense of the Cross", which focused on the following concepts.

- A Man Hanging on a Tree
- Portraits and Perspectives
- Ransom and Victory
- Substitution, Satisfaction, and Sacrifice
- Example and Encouragement
- Event and Experience

As you may imagine, the discussions on these topics were both lively and rewarding.

Late summer presented our parish with an excellent opportunity for our interim priest, Fr. Mark Crawford, to lead an interesting series of Sunday morning classes in preparation for last fall's Confirmation event. What made it all the more interesting were the many additional attendees seeking to renew and deepen their understanding of the basic elements of our faith. All benefited from both the presentations and the ensuing caring discussions.

All things have a season and, after we finished spring class, the Adult Christian Formation mission leader for the past six plus years, Rob Hamon, stepped down. He felt this was the right time for a fresh perspective on this important mission area, to coincide with the renewal of our parish under a new Rector. So, if you are perhaps interested in the position, just contact the office for more information.

Altar Guild – Ms. Bettye Newberry

St Mark's Altar Guild has been very busy in 2018. Making sure that the altar is beautiful each Sunday, Easter & Christmas. I want to give a huge shout out to the dedicated members: Ruthie Hurta, Ann Chrisman, Isobel Gotschall, Lisa Arnold, Sandy Barkerding, Bonnie Knecht, Michelle D'Antuono, Suzanne Mottin, Susan Hylton, Delores Baldwin. Also, our special Oil Angels Charles & Sally Yates. An open invitation to all to join our special teams. Also, thank you for our congregation members who furnish the flowers for each Sunday & holidays. We have increased our altar members by 2, Terri Fletcher & Caroline Moen have joined us!

Christian Formation Grades 6-12 – Mrs. Chris Abbott

Secondary Christian Formation served students in grades 6-12. The goal of the secondary Christian Formation class is to provide the youth with a study of scripture that has direct applications to their daily lives.

Spring 2018

The spring term for Christian Formation for youth in grades 6-12 used the curriculum 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 spring included Epiphany, disciples, authority of God, connecting with God, love of God and the mission of the church.

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 interested in the competition as it progressed. 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. St. Mark's received a "shout out" from Scott Gunn, the editor of Forward Day by Day, and challenged St. Mark's to have a pep rally again next year with a bonfire in the sanctuary.

Fall 2018

Following the suggestion of Jamie Martin-Currie from the Diocese of Texas, the 6-12 grade class used the *Real and Relevant* curriculum in the fall of 645². 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. Themes in the fall included dealing with anger, popularity/cliques, fear, leadership, saints and giving.

Chris Abbott teaches the class and communicates with both the parents and youth via email and text 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. Their dedication to this program make it possible.

Daughters of the King (DOK) – Mrs. Deborah Burns

St Mark's Daughters of the King group currently has 17 members. Average attendance at monthly Saturday meetings is 8-10. Each month the DOK meet, items were brought for Nancy Brown to distribute to local charity organizations. Monthly meetings also offer a devotion or lesson shared by one of the mem-

bers. The Daughters continue to provide meals to those who are ill or infirm. Meals are prepped and placed in the designated freezer at the church. Those meals are delivered by a daughter. Daughters once again, participated in the St Mark's giving tree over Christmas. Several members also provided gingerbread dough to the EYC for Christmas cookie baking. In January the Daughters plan to have a tea to offer women of the church a chance to hear more about our group and begin to discern whether they are called to this lifetime commitment.

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. The vision of ECW is for all women of the Episcopal Church to "become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a God spark – shining and sharing the love of Christ".

To this end, St. Mark's ECW makes a difference by touching lives through fellowship, spiritual growth and outreach. In 2018, 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 2018 ECW held its annual winter retreat at The Leaman's Eagles Nest Ranch. This retreat was designed for fellowship, spiritual growth, cooking togetherness, and both "freeform" and planned activities. Tours of the ranch and "getting to know you better" group sharing were favorite treats. In March ECW hosted a baby shower for the coming of Grayson Moen. What a fun time seeing all those cute baby clothes and toys! Grayson is now a church member who served as the baby Jesus in the Christmas pageant.

In April ECW hosted a wonderful cooking class to learn recipes to delight our family and friends. St. Mark's Church member, Chef Jon Eiche, taught a hands-on class on the creation of crab stuffed mushrooms and baked asparagus tartlets.

October was a busy month for ECW as once again we strengthened our relationships by holding our annual fall retreat at The Leaman's Eagles Nest Ranch. We were excited that our new rector, Rev. Susie, was with us and that the retreat time was extended to three days.

Also in October, Chef Jon Eiche held his second cooking class for the parish hosting a hands-on class on the creation of lemon tarts.

In December ECW celebrated with its annual Women's Christmas Brunch and Gift Exchange. This celebration is in its eighth year and always features many unique gifts and delicious brunch dishes to share.

For more information about ECW, please contact Bettye at l.newberry@sbcglobal.net or Barbara at barbs4@earthlink.net.

Episcopal Youth Community – Mrs. Chris Abbott

EYC was restarted in the fall of 2018. The goal of EYC is to connect with the youth in our community through pray and faith. EYC intends to provide the youth of St. Mark's with an opportunity to socialize and grow in their faith. Outreach to our community is a vital part of our goal. This fall activities included a nature hike, a lock-in, participation with the St. Mark's Saints for a Cure walk team in the JDRF walk at NRG stadium, a build your own nachos event, putting together "Blessing Bags" to be given to

those in need and a Christmas party where gingerbread cookies were made and a white elephant gift exchange took place. EYC was especially pleased to have Joy Ani selected as the Southwest Convocation representative for the 2019 Diocese of Texas Council.

Godly Play for Children – Mrs. Jeanne Reaves

Godly Play is a Christian Formation program geared for children of preschool to upper elementary ages. The program at St. Mark's targets 3 to 5 or 6 year old children. The children enter into sacred stories from the Bible to discover the presence of God in their lives.

In 2018 the class was moved to the upstairs area across from other Christian Formation classes. We are very blessed to have the addition of two professional experienced teachers, making three available teachers. I invite parents, friends, and grandparents to "google" Godly Play to learn more about this program. The founder of Godly Play, Jerome Berryman, calls it the Montessori of religious education.

KIDS HOPE USA – Mrs. Delores Baldwin

We are very fortunate to be in our 5th year of mentoring. We have been invited to return as Kids Hope. We hope to continue to nurture relationships with children at Cora Thomas Elementary School. Mentors 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 fifth grades during 2018. 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, maintaining the classroom environment and having all supplies for the various activities on hand and ready to use each week. Kids' Kingdom teachers this year have included Sara Hawkes, Amy Wacker, Mary Anne Simicek and Shan Harris. Rhonda Yamauchi and Helen Tanner served as assistants. 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. Kids' Kingdom would not be possible without these dedicated individuals.

Spring 2018

Kids' Kingdom units during the spring included a study of Epiphany, Baptism and Easter. 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 spring included making scented sachet

packets, paper plate angels, cooking “honey bugs”, baking unleavened bread, making prayer beads, readers’ theater, a time line from Easter to Ascension to Pentecost and a Pentecost play.

Fall 2018

Kids’ Kingdom in the fall included an Old Testament study of Creation and All Saints’ Day. Activities in the Creation unit included painting tiles, terrarium construction, a photography scavenger hunt, making a “seven days of creation” snack and playing Creation Pictionary. Activities in the All Saints’ Day unit included designing Faith Crests, working with the choir to learn “I Sing the Song of the Saints of God”, readers’ theater, a Jesus puzzle and dedication ribbons to hang on the Growing in Grace tree in the narthex.

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

The St. Mark’s Men’s Ministry continued to be active in 2018 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 6:30p.m. 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 such areas as discipleship, forgiveness, mourning and prayer. Kolaches, donuts, chocolate chip cookies and/or jerky are furnished. For information on these meetings, please contact Benno at barbs4@earthlink.net.

In 2018, we enjoyed two *Gathering of Men* events at the Leaman’s Eagles Nest Ranch, one in February and one in October. At each Gathering, over twenty adult men and young men attended all or part of the three-day event. New friendships were made and existing relationships were strengthened. Some men shot guns, some explored the ranch, some played Euchre and some just sat by the fire pit and relaxed. Much manly food was eaten. At our October Gathering we were honored to have Rev. Susie become an honorary Men’s Group member who shared Eucharist with us, chopped wood and prepared vegetables.

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 on the breakfast meeting.

Music & Choir – Mr. Tom Thompson

The Music Ministry of St. Mark’s has had a wonderful year. I have truly grown to love this community, and I am so grateful to God for blessing me in this way. The St. Mark’s Choir is doing very well; we presented a very dramatic and moving presentation, *The Resurrection*, by Simon McEnery and Jeremy Davies, in the spring of 2018, as well as a contemporary setting of a *Service of Lessons & Carols* during Advent of 2018. Currently, we have begun work on our spring of 2019 oratorio *The Passion*, which is a scriptural account of Jesus’ final week on earth. Additionally, we will be looking forward to another lovely musical offering during Advent of 2019. We will continue to lead the congregation in worship each Sunday, as well.

In 2018, the St. Mark’s Handbells (we are working on naming the ensemble) doubled in size, allowing us to use all three octaves of the handbells. I have been so impressed with the new ringers who have worked so diligently so that we would be able to lead in worship. We will continue to play about once a month, throughout the year.

I am still hopeful that we will be able to develop a children's choir program within the next year. If anyone is interested in helping with this program, please contact me at your convenience (281.545.1661 x2006, or tthompson@stmarksfortbend.org).

We are working on putting together a performance tour for both the St. Mark's Choir and Handbells in the summer of 2020. More information will be forthcoming very soon.

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. 2018 has been a year of change. Our nursery staff of Michelle Buckner and Shakira Patni provide the best care for our youngsters. Michelle Buckner also works full time at St. Mark's school and she has decided to be a substitute nursery attendant. God has provided us with a wonderful new nursery attendant in LaDawn Fryer. All three of our staff are trained in Safeguarding God's Children and provide loving care for our Birth to Age 3 children.

Sewing Guild – Mrs. Jeanne Reaves

In 2018 the Sewing Sisters at St. Mark's were busy making items for those in need. Lord of the Streets received 77 scarf-hoodies made of polar fleece and flannel. Texas Children's Hospital received 26 quilted flannel quilts and the Fort Bend Women's Shelter received 57 pillowcases made in lively cotton prints. We are currently making pet quilts for the Ft. Bend Animal Shelter using scraps from our other projects. In March Emi Ho, a resident doctor of hand rehabilitation from Methodist Sports and Medicine, spoke at our luncheon about joint protection. We all learned about protecting hand and wrist function through using adaptations and proper joint movement to accomplish everyday tasks. Our group enjoys getting together for listening, talking, laughing, learning, and sewing for the good.

Social Outreach Ministry – Ms. Nancy Brown

One obligation of a church is to provide services to the community and to people who may not otherwise have access to those services. We respond to community needs both with an immediate response such as Hurricane Harvey via the Action Team or as a long-term commitment as with the Sewing Guild. A high percentage of St. Mark's parishioners are involved in community service and we are lucky to have members who express their faith by helping others.

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 2018. Our community outreach ministries include:

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 in June of 2018 at The First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg with many St. Mark's parishioners participating in this program.

ST. MARK'S "GIVING TREE" is a favorite at St. Mark's. Our generous giving of gifts assisted infants, children and teens in crisis. CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every abused or neglected child in the United States can be safe, have a permanent home and have the opportunity to thrive. A check for \$300 was sent to CASA during the summer of 2018.

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 and are 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, statistics 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.

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 collected personal products and food to Helping Hands.

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 I stated in last years report, we postponed development of strategic goals past 2017, in light of our transition between rectors. However, we can look back over the past year and be very proud and excited about the accomplishments and activity that have colored 2018.

Due to the hard work and diligence of our Profile Committee, Search Committee and Vestry, we called a new rector to our beloved St. Mark's! The Rev. Susanne Comer accepted our call and joined us on October 1. In her short time here, she has already immersed herself in our parish life and in our hearts. The Rev. Susanne and I have had discussions about many new and exciting things that we can do as a congregation to live out our mission. You can expect many exciting and positive changes down the road.

Another aspect that has affected strategic planning is the road construction around our church proper-

ty. I know that everyone has been affected in some way by this flurry of activity. Whether it is missing the entrance of the church or trying to call when the phone lines are down, it has been a challenging time for many of us. Despite this, we can look forward to the future, when the road projects are finished, and we have easier access and visibility for members and visitors. And, as the property lines are finalized, we can begin to develop strategic plans for our physical space on the beautiful land that God has blessed us with.

If you are interested in serving on the Strategic Planning Committee in the future, please contact the Rev. Comer or myself.

Vacation Bible School – Mrs. Melissa Hamon

If you entered into the sanctuary in June of 2018, you would have found yourself surrounded by trees, campfires and rafts! For four wonderful days our young children experienced Rolling River Rampage. We had a special worship time led by our drama team and music leader, Tom Thompson. Our “campers” participated in a morning of Bible lessons, songs, snacks and crafts. This year we had 40 wonderful children attend our VBS program. Our ages ranged from Pre-K 3 to third grade. Our campers were from our congregation, our 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!

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

Vestry (2018)

Alysoun Marks (Sr Warden)
Brad Knecht (Jr Warden)
Susan Hylton
Kim Janke
Bettye Newberry
Rock Moen
Rhonda Yamauchi

Executive Admin. Assistant

Kimberly Hart

Director of Parish Life

Melissa Hamon

Financial Secretary

Sandy Barkerding

Organist

Mr. Tom Thompson

**School Interim Administrative
Director**

Jeri Carington

**School Interim Education
Director**

Lynnett Alderson

School Board of Directors

Rev. Susie Comer
Rev. Mark Crawford
Alysoun Marks
Michelle D'Antuono (President)
Janice Knight
Michelle Tripulas
Susan Hylton
Nick Joseph
Ty Bell

Treasurer

Rock Moen

Nursery Attendants

Michelle Buckner
Shakira Patni
LaDawn Fryer

Sexton

Reuben Luna
Andrew Vasquez

Stewardship Commission

Rock Moen (Chair)
Rev. Susie Comer
Barbara Scheibner
Alysoun Marks
Isobel Gotschall
Justin Bond
Brandee Bond

Finance Committee

Rock Moen (Chair)
Sandy Barkerding
Brad Knecht

Audit Committee

Vince Arnold (Chair)
Ruthie Hurta
Gray Baldwin
Frank D'Antuono

Budgeting Committee

Rev. Susie Comer
Rock Moen (Chair)
Sandy Barkerding
Brad Knecht

Vergers

Kathy Barzilla
Phyllis Janke
Barbara Scheibner
Benno Scheibner
Jon Eiche

Choir

Sandy Barkerding
Roger Barkerding
Bob Carrington
Jerri Carrington
Kemi Ani
Jeanne Reeves
Faith Fidelis-Ojah
Bettegene Coyle
Debbie Thomas
Julie Stuckey
Brent Lee

Choir Con'd

Marilyn Turner
Bill Brawn
John Barzilla
Bart Little

Handbells

Brad Knecht
Cameron Knecht
Brent Lee
Precious Ani
Suzanne Mottin
Samuel Hylton
Debbie Thomas
Sue Lane McCulley
Juliette Ani
Julie Stuckey

Chalice Bearers

Kevin Cranston
Dwayne Dawlearn
Jon Eiche
Kim Janke
Brad Knecht
Cameron Knecht
Bonnie Knecht
Kathy Barzilla
Barbara Scheibner
Benno Scheibner

Torchbearers

Cole Harris
Hannah Harris
Mia Hawkes
Ashton Knecht
Cameron Knecht
Trevor Johnson
Mia Hawkes
Tim Cranston
Alice Hylton
Samuel Hylton

Lay Readers

Lisa Arnold
Sandra Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla
Bob Carrington
Rob Hamon
Sara Hawkes

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

Lay Readers Con'd

Kathy Hynson
Ruthie Hurta
Phyllis Janke
Peggy Wyatt

Altar Guild

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

Wedding Guild

Dorothy Dawlearn
Bettye Newberry

Ushers

Vince Arnold
Gray Baldwin
Delores Baldwin
Frank D'Antuono
Michelle D'Antuono
Dwayne Dawlearn
Kim Janke
Rock Moen
Chris Harris
Charles Yates
Brad Knecht
Cole Mottin
Sara Hawkes
Barbara Scheibner
Suzanne Mottin
Charlie Phillips
Don Jozwiak
Marion Jozwiak
Ron Wyatt

Ushers Con'd

Joy Ani
Precious Ani
Juliet Ani

Tellers

Bart Little
Kathy Barzilla
Alysoun Marks
Brad Knecht
Roger Barkerding
Kim Janke
Rhonda Yamauchi
Susan Hylton
Bettye Newberry

Daughters of the King

Chris Abbott
Sandra Barkerding
Kathy Barzilla
Nancy Brown
Jerri Carington
Ann Chrisman
Jeri Culberson
Dorothy Dawlearn
Isobel Gotschall
Melissa Hamon
Alysoun Marks
Jeanne Reaves
Barbara Ricklin
Barbara Scheibner
Sara Hawkes
Deborah Burns
Marion Jozwiak
Peggy Wyatt

**Christian Formation
for Adults**

The Rev. Susie Comer
The Rev. Mark Crawford
Rob Hamon

**Christian Formation
for Youth**

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

Kids' Kingdom

Sara Hawkes
Chris Abbott
Mary Anne Simicek
Shan Harris
Rhonda Yamauchi
Helen Tanner
Amy Wacker
Stacy Krajnovic

EYC

The Rev. Susie Comer
Chris Abbott
Alysoun Marks
Rob Hamon
Melissa Hamon

Godly Play

Jeanne Reaves
Justin Bond
Crystal McCelvey

Outreach Ministry Leader

Nancy Brown
Rhonda Yamauchi
Isobel Gotschall

Kids Hope Leadership

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

Kids Hope Mentors

Delores Baldwin
Isobel Gotschall
Darryl Mottin
Arlene Rivenes

Kids Hope Prayer Partners

Gray Baldwin
Ruthie Hurta
Mary Moen
Charlie Yates
Benno Scheibner

The Sewing Guild

Lou Cloninger
Sally Yates
Marilyn Turner

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

The Sewing Guild Con'd

Jeannie Reaves
Bettegene Coyle
Mary Lane
Joan Little
Rhonda Yamauchi
Betty Von-Maszewski
Isabel Gotschall
Ann Chrisman
Dorothy Dawlearn
Kemi Ani
Joan O'Neill
Gail Scholer

ECW Chairs

Bettye Newberry
Barbara Scheibner

Men's Group

Ministry Leaders

Benno 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.