

St. Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting
January 28, 2024**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting
January 28, 2024
Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
2. Appreciation and presentation of Gifts to Vestry class of 2023
3. Senior Wardens Report - Alysoun Marks
4. Junior Warden's Report - Elisa Hughes
5. Finance and Stewardship Report - Michelle D'Antuono & Rock Moen
6. Head of School Report - Michelle D'Antuono (for Jerri Carington)
7. A Brief Summary of Ministries in 2023
8. Closing Prayer and Doxology

Rector Report— Rev. Jeremy Bradley

While I cannot account for the entire year, December felt like a whole year crammed into one month as I began my time as Rector at St. Mark's on December 1! It was a joyous month as this amazing church family welcomed me. In reflecting on my experience, I am reminded of a passage written by Paul to the Colossians, focusing on a new life in Christ, which states, "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." (1 Colossians 3:14-15)

I want to begin with thankfulness by expressing my gratitude to the search committee led by Rock Moen. Their faithfulness, honesty, and discernment, along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, brought us together. I told the search committee this at one point towards the end of the process that I had a clear sense of calling to St. Mark's and the Fort Bend area while watching the Fort Bend County Parade. Almost as if Betty Newberry was telling the Holy Spirit what to do.

I also want to thank the vestry for saying yes to the search committee's recommendation and making the call. Under the leadership of Alysoun Marks, the church has continued to thrive, and we are in a great place to discern what the future trajectory looks like for our St. Mark's family in how we respond to God's call in our life and our world. We are in an exciting time in the life of our parish, and I have great hope for our future!

Lastly, I want to thank the St. Mark's community. You have been gracious to me and my family from the start. We have felt welcomed, supported, and loved beyond belief. It has been a true joy to witness.

I am thrilled to have been called to be your rector and look forward to many years together as we work in conjunction to bring God's Kingdom to the Fort Bend area and beyond.

Senior Warden Report— Mrs. Alysoun Marks

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” - I Peter 1:3-5

Looking back on the past year from today’s perspective, it’s easy to see how God has been working with us and through us to bring us where we are now. At the beginning of the year, we had hopes and dreams and a lot of uncertainty. First Peter offers encouragement and instruction to Christians in the face of uncertainty. And, I know that you all share my joy and gratitude, not only in the “new birth” that we have in Jesus, but also in the “new birth” of this next season at St. Mark’s.

On December 1, 2023, we were very pleased to call the Reverend Jeremy Bradley to be St. Mark’s next rector. The support and commitment that we received from The Episcopal Diocese of Texas was tremendous! We are very blessed by their dedication in making sure that we had the right person to lead our congregation. EDOT worked with the Vestry, the Profile Committee and the Search Committee to make this transition as smooth and productive as possible. I especially want to thank Bill Abbott for shouldering the majority of the work load for the Profile Committee, again. Without his many hours of work, we just would not be where we are today. And, kudos to Rock Moen for his strong leadership with the Search Committee, and his dedication to making sure the desires and needs of the congregation were heard and ultimately met in the calling of Reverend Bradley.

At the beginning of the year, we made a very difficult decision to close down St. Mark’s Episcopal School. After 9 years of providing quality, christian education for children, it was with great sadness that we closed the doors. I am eternally grateful for the hard work of Jerri Carington and Michelle D’Antuono, as well as many others, who dedicated countless hours to making this a smooth transition. In God’s providence, we were approached by several schools that were interested in using the space. We are excited to have Keen to Learn Academy as our new resident at St. Mark’s. Keen to Learn Academy is not an Episcopal school, but we share many values and ideas about education, principles and community.

During a rector transition, it can be challenging to keep all of the ministries and other church business running at full speed. And, while we have had our ups and downs, I am very proud of the work that we have done this year. The Bishop Suffragan Kai Ryan visited St. Mark’s in April, when she confirmed and received four members in our congregation. We maintained our Christian Formation Classes, we sent representatives to the 174th Diocesan Council, we held a Ministry Leaders Forum, we had our annual Pancake Supper and Lenten Fish Fry, we held a Lenten Study Program, we had a Patriotic Sing-a-Long, and we maintained most of our outreach programs. We dabbled in some new activities this year. We partnered with Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management as a cooling station during the summer months. We brought Trunk-or-Treat back to St. Mark’s, hosting over 350 people. We participated in Miracle on Morton Street and donated bottles of water to Lunches of Love 5k.

I am so grateful for each and every one of you for leading us into and through this past year. It is by God’s grace and faithfulness that we are here today. And he has given us a “new birth” here at St. Mark’s! I look forward to the hope of the future, and spending that future here at St. Mark’s with all of you, my beloved church family!

Junior Warden Report — Mrs. Elisa Hughes

Two ground projects were completed this year. Thanks to the help of the ROTC high school group as well as several high school volunteers. We were able to clean the outback, fish fry station, replace all dead shrubs, trim trees bushes, scrub the schools playground and weed the actual playground area placed labels on bottles for the Morton Street experience.

Interior maintenance

Maintained a regular filter, change routine for the water filter in the ice machine as well as the coffee machine. Changed all air filters throughout the church, replaced ceiling tiles, changed out the fire exit signs, replaced lightbulbs throughout the church and school, replaced faucets, aerators throughout the church as well as maintenance that needed to be done.

Fire suppression system

The fire suppression system is now fully operational during 2023. We had several repairs made. In February when we had the freeze, the external pipes to the tank froze so we had to have them replaced. New pressure valves installed. We had to have our fuel injectors, replaced, flushed out and new diesel put in. At that time we were advised that the diesel had been in there for 10 years and at best we should replace the diesel fuel every two years. Some of the issues that have been arising with the fire suppression system is due to the age of the system. A lot of the things that are falling apart on it are no longer able to get any parts and we've had to have them fabricated. The vestry needs to think about a new fire suppression system each year. This thing is costing us a lot of money not sure how much longer this machine will last. On that topic, the black tank it's getting older and the repairs are starting to add up.

Other

I'm very proud of my volunteers and all what they do and yet still come back with a smile. It is my hope that we continue using the volunteers in the future. As without them we could not get half of what we do done. I also am very appreciative of any church members that come out to assist.

Future plants

In the coming year, it is my hope that we will be able to paint the outback as well as both carports leading into the church. We also would like parish hall center lights replaced with something that is not a permanent light fixture that the cost, \$340, is not just for the part.

Food for thought

Nothing last forever we really need to think about the depreciation value of some of the equipment we have, and start making arrangements that when they hit a point of depreciation, we need to think about either replacing them or coming up with other solutions.

Finance Report – Mrs. Michelle D’Antuono & Mr. Rock Moen

General Fund - 2023

2023 was a successful year at St. Mark’s. While our actual pledges were about 10% less than expected, our total income was only down 3.7%. Thankfully, due to efficiency programs, our expenses were 13.2% less than budget, which resulted in an overall budget surplus of \$27,500 or 8.3%.

We were able to achieve this due to the continuous work and dedication of our St. Mark’s family donating time, talent and treasure. We accomplished so much this year from several outreach ministry activities to numerous updates, maintenance, and beautification projects.

General Fund – 2024

We are so grateful for Michelle D’Antuono’s leadership and all of her and Kim Hart’s efforts managing God’s money for St. Mark’s over the past few years. Michelle has agreed to continue to support our Church by leading our Finance Committee for the future. We also appreciate Melissa Hamon and Curtis Boyd for their ministry of supporting our Finance Committee.

Please review our Ministry Focused Budget on the following page of \$413,000. Please notice the Symmetry of this budget where 40% is based on Outreach Ministry of Fellowship/Communication, Outreach/Evangelism, and School and 60% is Worship/Music, Christian Formation, and Pastoral Care – In Reach. We will be operating 2024 under a planned deficit budget with the addition of our Rector Jeremy Bradley. It’s important to know that our Diocese has contributed a \$15,000 grant in support of our ministry. Appreciate all of you as we have increased our pledges this year by 8% over last year, as we focus on contacting past members and welcoming new members to our church family.

St. Mark’s is blessed with “No Debt”. Thank you all for your continued commitment and generous support.

General Fund (less 2024 prepaid pledges) –	\$ 100,251.96
Investment Fund (including \$40,000 Endowment)	131,472.78
Rector Discretionary Fund	352.45
Petty Cash	100.00
Capital Fund	284,386.07
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Fort Bend – December 31, 2023, Total	\$ 516,563.26

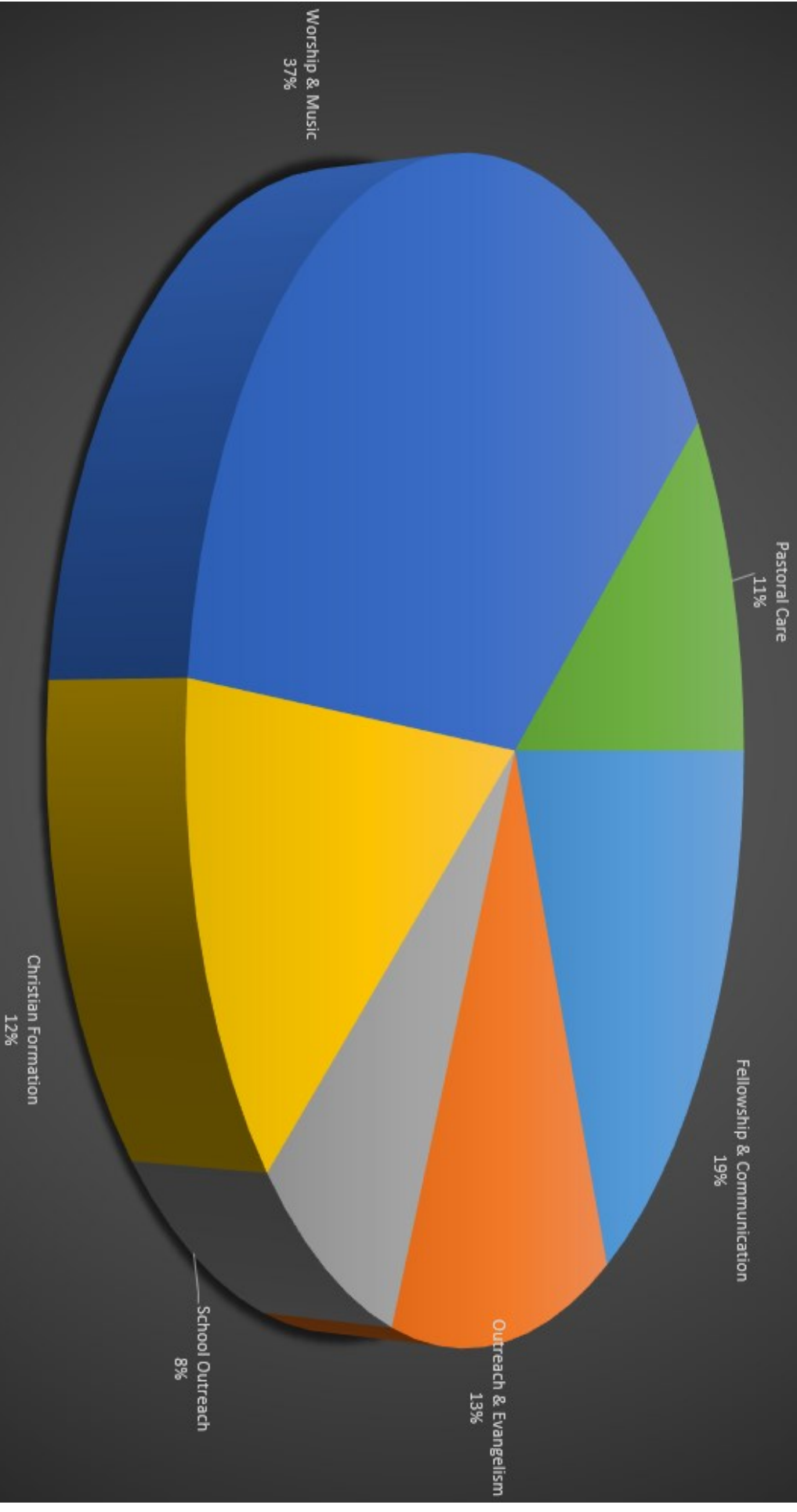
Capital Fund

In early 2023, we received \$180,000 from Fort Bend County as the first payment for the future Reading Road expansion.

In April, we initiated a new program and invested \$250,000 in a 7 month CD at Amegy Bank which made about \$1,000/month in interest. The CD matured in November, and we rolled the funds into another CD with a higher interest rate.

After further negotiations with Fort Bend County, we settled on an additional net payment of \$183,000 for the Reading Road expansion. We expect to receive these funds by March of this year.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Ministry Focused Budget - \$413,000



St. Mark's Episcopal School Report — Mrs. Michelle D'Antuono

In March, 2023, St. Mark's School Board voted to close the school, with the last day of school being May 31, 2023. This was due to continued low enrollment since Covid. There was a great deal of work involved in closing, and we greatly appreciated the help from school staff and others through this process.

In September, 2023 St. Mark's Vestry agreed to work with Keen to Learn Academy, to lease our school space. They had recently lost their previous space, and needed to find a new facility as soon as possible. An agreement was signed by all parties for Keen to Learn Academy to move into our school space on November 1, 2023. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, they were not able to have children in the school until January 3, 2024.

Keen to Learn has a multilingual curriculum for students from 1 to 12 years old to reveal their full potential, far beyond age academic levels. They focus their values on diversity, community-building, integrity, and making a positive impact on the world.

Acolytes/Chalice Bearers – Mrs. Kathy Barzilla

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 few Crucifers and sometimes Gospel Bearers scheduled at services.

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 would like several people, both youth and adults trained in the rotation. We are excited about training more adults to serve as Crucifer and the possibilities for more youth Gospel Bearers and Torch Bearers in 2024. Kathy Barzilla serves as the acolyte trainer and we can train acolytes at any time. If anyone is interested in serving as an acolyte at St. Mark's, please contact Kathy Barzilla at kat102193@windstream.net. We look forward to setting up a training session in February.

Adult Christian Formation – Mr. Rob Hamon, Mr. Jim Duke & Mrs. Alysoun Marks

Bible 101: How do we “study” the Bible? (6 lessons). Reviewed various methods of studying the Bible using 12 different models. By focusing four specific approaches, we suggested any one of them could fit student needs, regardless of their experience.

Lenten Series: The 2023 Lenten Series included a simple salad and soup meal each Wednesday during the five weeks of Lent. Jim Duke led the series which included music and readings from the Lectionary built around the Compline format from the BCP. Each week Jim led a Bible Study on the theme of Jesus moving toward Jerusalem and the work and miracles of that time. Average attendance was about a dozen each week. Living Well Through Lent 2023: Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. (6 lessons) Compassion & Faith; Compassion & Listening; Compassion & Prayer; Compassion & Mercy; Compassion & Well-Being; Compassion & Love.

Thematic Study: The Lord's Prayer (7 lessons). From the Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 372: “And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, ...” Our method actually deconstructed the Prayer and we learned to ‘be bold’ together.

Advent Series: Living Well Through Advent 2023: Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. (4 lessons) Wonder & Love; Wonder & Stories; Wonder & Thin Places; and, Christmas Eve, Wonderful!

Brown Bag Bible Study - The mid-week Bible study has remained faithful throughout the year. Currently there are 6 participants. We transitioned from Zoom meetings to in-person meetings early in the calendar year. We started off in January with the first two chapters of Luke. We read Acts, Ester, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians and then finished the year with Romans. We are excited to start a new year and to now be meeting in person. The time has changed to 11 am on Tuesdays, instead of the previous meeting time of noon.

Altar Guild – Ms. Isobel Gotschall & Mrs. Michelle D'Antuono

St Mark's grieves the passing of Bettye Newberry in 2023, a long time friend and head of the Altar Guild. Michelle D'Antuono and Isobel Gotschall are the new Directors of the Altar Guild. Fortunately, we have added the following 7 new members: Helen Tanner, Cathy Baumbach, Kathleen Mensing, Anne Brock, Sue Lane McCulley, Mary Anne Helms and Tom Thompson. Ruthie Hurta is the longest serving member

of our team, and we appreciate her dedication. Later this month we will present to the congregation a new fair linen that will be blessed by Rev. Jeremy in honor of former leaders of St Mark's Altar Guild.

Christian Formation Grades 6-12 – Mrs. Chris Abbott

Secondary Christian Formation served students in grades 6-12. The lessons are adapted by Chris Abbott from the *Real and Relevant* curriculum endorsed by the Diocese of Texas. 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. The lessons provide the youth with an opportunity to dig deeper into the scripture reading, God, Jesus and their faith. Movie clips as designated in the curriculum were often used to emphasize a point and bring current day issues to light following the scripture reading. Each week's class is concluded with a challenge for the students in their daily lives based on the lesson for the week ahead.

Spring 2023

In the spring of 2023 the focus of the lessons included Epiphany, free will, trust, qualities of a leader, baptism, Lent, temptations, faith, doubt, and belief. The spring term also gave the class the opportunity to follow the Lent Madness competition produced by the Forward Movement. Lent Madness gives everyone the opportunity to expand their knowledge of those individuals who have contributed so much to our faith.

Lent Madness 2023 – St. Mark's again followed Lent Madness as promoted by The Forward Movement. A chart of the current nominees was updated in the parish hall each week. Chris Abbott gave weekly updates during the announcement time in order to keep the congregation informed of the competition. On Palm Sunday a church wide vote was taken using the Final Four nominees. Lent Madness gives everyone the opportunity to expand their knowledge of those individuals who have contributed so much to our faith.

Fall 2023

The focus of the fall term included sin/confrontation, forgiveness, God's plan, commitment, role models, contentment, standing up for beliefs, the Ten Commandments, preparation and goals. Chris Abbott taught the class and communicated with both the parents and youth via email and text to give everyone a preview of what to expect in that week's lesson. Additional thanks go to Dr. Charlie Yates, Isobel Gotschall and Frank D'Antuono for their participation to satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God's Children. Their dedication to this program continue to make it possible.

Daughters of the King (DOK) – Mrs. Kathy Barzilla

Now that we are back at church, the DOK is back into full swing with a variety of service projects. First and foremost, we were able to discontinue the Zoom meetings and start meeting in person. That has been so nice! Although we are thankful for the technology of Zoom, there is nothing better than spending time together discussing service projects, having fellowship and praying together. Our meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month after worship.

Your Daughters of the King chapter at St. Mark's welcomed four new members this past year. Please contact Kathy Barzilla at kat102193@windstream.net if you are interested in more information. A new class could begin training in the Spring. The DOK also keeps a confidential prayer list that is kept up to date and prayed over daily. The power of prayer is tremendous!

Here are some of the projects that were completed in 2023:

1. Men's undergarment supply drive for Lord of the Streets during the month June 2023. Our congregation very generously donated underwear, socks and undershirts for homeless men being served by Lord of the Streets. Chris Abbott and Kathy Barzilla delivered the items to Trinity Episcopal Church, who, in turn delivered them to Lord of the Streets.

2. Back-to-School supply drive for school supplies for Taylor Ray Elementary in Rosenberg. Our congregation donation was a huge supply of all kinds of school supplies. Chris and Bill Abbott and Kathy Barzilla delivered the supplies directly to the teachers and staff who were thrilled with the donations. This is a project we intend to continue in 2024.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) – Mrs. Alysoun Marks, Ms. Christine Powell, Ms. Isobel Gotschall, Nancy Boyd & Mrs. Rhonda Yamauchi

The Episcopal Church Woman (ECW) Committee of St. Mark's planned many events in 2023.

The first of these events was the Chili Cook off for the entire congregation which was held on January 29th. Isobel Gotschall made award ribbons and Anne Brock received first place.

An International Food Festival was held on February 26th. The congregation brought a variety of dishes representing many different countries.

On April 28th a "Whine & Cheese" social took place on the church patio. About twelve women attended and as we had a wonderful evening of chit-chat, we snacked on various wine and cheeses along with other snacks.

The Parish Hall was the site of a Halloween party for the women of the church on October 28th. The attendees brought snacks and we ate popcorn from Alysoun's popcorn machine as we watched the movie, "The Witches".

The end of 2023 was concluded with the annual Christmas Brunch & Gift Exchange on December 9th with about 26 people in attendance. ECW funds provided a honey-baked ham while the potluck side dishes and deserts were provided by the attendees. After a great meal and plenty of conversation, everyone had a good time selecting and "stealing" gifts. This year, for the first time, we made the Christmas Brunch into an outreach event and collected 115 pounds of non-perishable food items which were donated to Helping Hands and delivered by Isobel Gotschall.

Last but not least, ECW donated \$200.00 to Episcopal Relief and Development which is an organization that responds to human suffering in the world. This donation will be used by Episcopal Relief and Development in areas they feel are in the most need.

Kids' Kingdom – Mrs. Chris Abbott

Kids' Kingdom provided Christian Formation for students in the first through fifth grades during 2023. 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 lessons plans are adapted and written by Chris Abbott from the *Workshop Rotation Model* website. Weekly communications via email and texts were sent to the students and their families.

Kids' Kingdom –Spring 2023

During the spring the focus was on a unit on Noah, a unit on Easter and then a unit on the miracles of Jesus. Activities included the construction of rain sticks, creating rainbows, building an ark with pretzels, baking dog treats and making a citrus pomander. Preparing for Lent the students made “Alleluia Banners” to be stored away until Easter. In the weeks leading up to Easter the students completed a project titled “My Easter Story Eggs” with twelve items that represent the Easter story including such items as palms, crosses, nails, thorns, fish, etc. The miracles of Jesus unit included water color painting of Jesus walking on water and cooking pretzel fish.

Kids' Kingdom – Fall 2023

Classes resumed in the fall with a unit on Moses. Activities in the Moses unit included a Moses mosaic, a basket made out of shredded wheat for baby Moses, baking unleavened bread, completing a tablet with the Ten Commandments, and constructing a Moses with a toilet paper tube. Kathy Barzilla, Ruthie Hurta, Helen Tanner, Mary Anne Helms and Melissa Hamon directed the classes on a weekly basis. Without their help to direct and satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God’s Children, the Kids’ Kingdom program could not exist.

The Men of St. Mark’s - Mr. Scott Marks

During the 2023 calendar year the Men’s group met monthly - 9 times. Average attendance at each meeting was 7 men with the trend being upward during the year.

Points of discussion during the year were:

1. Fellowship.
2. Supporting the search committee as appropriate.
3. Supporting the new priest once announced.
4. How to form a technical committee to help the Senior and Junior wardens as required.
5. Formation of a grief support group.
6. Discussion surrounding a men’s gathering offsite.
7. Planning required for having two fish fries in 2024.

Music & Choir – Mr. Tom Thompson

It has been such a wonderful experience to be a part of the Music Ministry at St. Mark’s! We are so blessed to have the wonderful members of St. Mark’s Ensemble and St. Mark’s Handbells who have been faithful in helping to lead in worship on Sundays. The vocal ensemble continues to rehearse during the week on days and at times when most members are available, as well as on Sundays, at 8:00 a.m. The handbell ensemble rehearses on Sundays, at 8:45 a.m.

We were thrilled to have friends join us for *The Passion*, which we presented on the Sunday following Easter; we were also delighted to present *The Magic of Broadway II: Broadway and Beyond* in September. For 2024, we are looking forward to using our time, talents, and resources to further enhance our worship experiences at St. Mark’s.

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

Sewing Guild – Mrs. Jeanne Reaves

This year the Sewing Sisters were busy making cheerful toddler and baby quilts of various designs---8 in all. The Sewing Sisters also made 55 brightly colored pillowcases. All these items were given to the Fort Bend Women’s Shelter—a community-supported organization that assists women and children thrive in a safe environment.

We sisters are thankful that St. Mark’s has supported our mission since 2005. We find that group sewing is fun and rewarding just like those old-fashioned sewing bees! We also extend our mission to those who are interested in sewing at home by giving out “kits” and directions for completing a simple project. For more information please contact Jeanne Reaves.

Social Outreach Ministry – Mrs. Rhonda Yamauchi & Ms. Isobel Gotschall

St. Mark's, during the year was able to do the following for 2023:

St. Mark's Giving Tree - This year, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church sponsored 10 children who were referred through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as children in need. This department services foster children from infants to age 18. For most of these children, the gifts from the Rainbow Room Christmas Giving Tree Project are the only ones they receive all year.

Because of the generosity of the members of St. Mark’s, we were able to provide three requested gifts per child totaling 30 gifts in just 3 weeks and seven of those gifts were bicycles. So....A huge “Thank You” to all of you who put a smile on the face of these children on Christmas morning and also to Isobel Gotschall, Nancy Boyd and Bob Yamauchi for their help with sorting and delivering these gifts.

Miracle on Morton Street - This was our first year to participate in this fun community event in Richmond. We passed out free bottles of water to the public with our own personal St. Mark’s label on the bottles. It took many hours of volunteer work to get the water bottles prepared. We had several church volunteers, but the majority of the work was done by youth from local high schools. We had Christmas ornament crafts for children to either make at our booth or take home with them. We passed out novelty items in St. Mark’s Welcome Bags, such as pencils, pens, rubber bracelets, sticky note pads, jar openers, and other items with St. Mark’s information and logo on them. We also had a gift basket filled with Christmas decorative items that was part of a drawing. The event was on December 2, Reverend Jeremy’s second day with us, but he was there all day passing out cards with our Advent and Christmas events printed on them, and inviting everyone to St. Mark’s. We had many church volunteers helping man the booth, and were happy to be a part of this annual tradition in Richmond. We were blessed with attendance of a family that visited our booth on the following Sunday for the Hanging of the Greens and Reverend Jeremy’s welcome reception.

Trunk-Or-Treat - After a couple of years absence, Trunk-or-Treat returned to St. Mark’s. We had over 15 trunks, a bounce house, face painting, free hotdogs, chili, chips, cookies and water. We also had carnival games and a costume contest, as well as a gum ball guessing competition. We had around 350 guests attend the event. The area schools have switched to an online notification system called Peachtree, which replaced the paper flyers that we have previously distributed to schools to be passed out to students. This was much easier than delivering paper flyers, but the cost was about the same. We served 300 hotdogs, and eventually ran out of food. It was a very successful event

Episcopal Relief and Development—Members of St. Mark’s were encouraged to make Christmas donations to Episcopal Relief and Development especially in the category of “Gifts for Life”. At the end of the youth Christian Formation year in May, a goat we named Mark, was purchased as a thank you to all those who had helped satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God’s Children.

Calendar/Planners/Date Book Collection—Again in 2023 the members of St. Mark’s donated calendars, planners and date books that were then given to a local senior living facility.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Mrs. Chris Abbott

St. Mark’s again participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Donations of canned and dried food were collected prior to Super Bowl Sunday. Monetary collections were also made. Contributions were delivered to the Helping Hands location in Richmond.

St. Mark’s Saints for a Cure – Mrs. Chris Abbott

2023 was the twelfth year that St. Mark’s has fielded a team for the annual Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk under the direction of Chris Abbott. This year’s walk took place on Saturday, November 4 at the Houston Sports Park. Thirty-eight individuals and families contributed \$4,712 this year and in the twelve years the St. Mark’s contribution has been more than \$35,000. These funds go to JDRF for their ongoing research into a cure and development of better ways to deal with Type One Diabetes on a daily basis.

Sunday Food Ministry - Ms. Isobel Gotschall

The Sunday Morning Food Ministry provide a variety of snacks in order to encourage folks to gather after Sunday service and visit with each other. We have 8 teams that we are rotating on Sunday mornings and we would like a few more teams in the rotation. The teams bring light snacks like, cookies, fruit, chips, nuts, etc. If you are interested in hosting on Sunday mornings or to get more information please contact Isobel Gotschall. Many thanks to those who volunteered for a team.

Welcome Committee

We assemble and stage welcome bags and a big thanks to the people who are attending regularly and greeting any visitors. We have a few new families that are attending regularly.

Give thanks for the many members of our body

Vestry (2023)

Alysoun Marks (Sr Warden)
Elisa Hughes (Jr Warden)
Chris Abbott
Kathy Barzilla
Michelle D'Antuono
Melissa Hamon
Sue Lane McCulley
Charles Phillips
Christine Powell

Executive Admin. Assistant

Kimberly Hart

Organist

Tom Thompson

Treasurer

Michelle D'Antuono

Sexton

Reuben Luna

SMES School Director

Jerri Carington

School Board of Directors

Jerri Carington
Michelle D'Antuono
Jan Leaman
Alysoun Marks
Phoebe Rogers

Stewardship Team

Alysoun Marks
Michelle D'Antuono
Melissa Hamon
Christine Powell

Finance Committee

Michelle D'Antuono
Rock Moen
Melissa Hamon
Curtis Boyd

Vergers

Kathy Barzilla

Choir

Kemi Ani
Bill Brawn
Faith Fidelis-Ojah
Diane McCreery
Kathleen Mensing
Jeanne Reaves
Julie Stuckey
Brent Thompson

Handbells

Jim Duke
Diane McCreery
Sue Lane McCulley
Suzanne Mottin
Julie Stuckey
Brent Thompson

Chalice Bearers

Kathy Barzilla
Melissa Hamon
Christine Powell

Altar Guild

Cathy Baumbach
Bill Brawn
Anne Brock
Michelle D'Antuono
Mary Anne Helms
Ruthie Hurta
Isobel Gotschall
Sue Lane McCulley
Kathleen Mensing
Bettye Newberry
Helen Tanner
Brent Thompson
Tom Thompson
Sally Yates
Charlie Yates

Wedding Guild

Bettye Newberry
Ruthie Hurta

Lay Readers

Kathy Barzilla
Nancy Boyd
Jim Duke
Jon Eiche
Rob Hamon
Mary Anne Helms
Adriana Krajinovic
Stacy Krajinovic
Jim Osoba
Peggy Wyatt

Ushers

Nancy Boyd
Curtis Boyd
Kyle Helms
Charlie Phillips
Don Jozwiak
Marion Jozwiak
Marko Krajinovic
Rock Moen
Jim Osoba
LJ Simicek

Tellers

Alysoun Marks
Elisa Hughes
Chris Abbott
Kathy Barzilla
Michelle D'Antuono
Melissa Hamon
Sue Lane McCulley
Charles Phillips
Christine Powell

The Sewing Guild

Jeannie Reaves
Rhonda Yamauchi
Betty Von Maszewski
Isabel Gotschall
Gail Scholer
Phoebe Rogers
Helen Tanner
Anne Brock
Mary Anne Helms
Lou Cloninger
Cathy Baumbach
Thu Phillips

Give thanks for the many members of our body

Daughters of the King

Chris Abbott
Kathy Barzilla
Anne Brock
Nancy Brown
Nancy Boyd
Jerri Carington
Dorothy Dawlearn
Joni Duke
Faith Fidelis-Ojah
Isobel Gotschall
Melissa Hamon
Alysoun Marks
Jeanne Reaves
Barbara Scheibner
Deborah Burns
Marion Jozwiak
Peggy Wyatt

**Christian Formation
for Adults**

Alysoun Marks
Rob Hamon

**Christian Formation
for Youth**

Chris Abbott
Dr. Charlie Yates
Isobel Gotschall
Frank D'Antuono

Kids' Kingdom

Chris Abbott
Mary Anne Helms
Kathy Barzilla
Melissa Hamon
Helen Tanner
Ruthie Hurta

Outreach Ministry

Isobel Gotschal
Rhonda Yamauchi
Chris Abbott
Alysoun Marks

ECW Chairs

Nancy Boyd
Christine Powell
Isobel Gotschall
Alysoun Scotts
Rhonda Yamauchi

**Men's Group
Ministry Leaders**

Scott Marks
Jim Duke

Hosting Ministry

Chris Abbott
Delores Baldwin
Gray Baldwin
Kathy Barzilla
Cathy Baumbach
Anne Brock
Michelle D'Antuono
Frank D'Antuono
Joni Duke
Jon Eiche
Evelyn Eiche
Elisa Hughes
Ruthie Hurta
Isobel Gotschall
Marion Jozwiak
Alysoun Marks
Sue Lane McCulley
Bettye Newberry
Clement Okika
Jeanne Reaves
Phoebe Rogers
Helen Tanner

Rector Profile Committee

Bill Abbott
Anne Brock
Phoebe Rogers
Isobel Gotschall

Rector Search Committee

Kathy Barzilla
Frank D'Antuono
Rob Hamon
Lee Leaman
Jim Osoba
Scott Marks
Rock Moen
Jeanne Reaves

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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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 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church have a vision for our future. We will nurture strong caring relationships within our church family and work together to meet the needs of our neighbors through outreach. We will commit to meaningful worship experiences with a vibrant music component. We will prepare for growth by developing a campus plan which utilizes our unique, beautiful campus space. We will devote ourselves to Christian formation at all ages and will create a thriving youth ministry. And we will implement an effective overall strategy for achieving our mission of knowing Christ and making him known.

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.