



A SUMMER OF SERVICE

Issue 15



St. Mark's Episcopal Church



July 2014



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE, AND
..... YOU'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR OWN.**

Join Social Outreach this summer and put your faith to work! **Arlene Rivenes**, leader of St. Mark's Social Outreach team, is spearheading many opportunities for us all to reach out to our community in service.



Lunches of Love is a non-profit community outreach program designed to show love to families by providing free nutritious sack lunches to low-income children during extended school holidays like summer vacation. From June 9 through August 22, we are asked to bring in items such as peanut butter and jelly, cereal, crackers, and fruit drinks. On July 8, a St. Mark's team will help put together these nutritious lunches. "Poverty exists, even in wealthy Fort Bend County", said Arlene. "Circumstances abound; they are numerous and varied. No matter what the cause, poverty is not the *children's* fault. Those of us who are blessed should not let them go hungry. Thank you for donating to Lunches of Love during their summer vacation!"



Arlene Rivenes, Leader of Social Outreach



Senior Buddy Program pairs up a caring St. Mark's parishioner with an elderly person at the Greatwood Senior Lifestyle Community to nourish friendship and provide compassionate support.



Kids Hope USA is a new mentoring program in which adult mentors give their time to nurture the heart of an at-risk child. These loving, caring adults are members of St. Mark's who make a commitment to devote an hour every week to their mentoring role at a local school. **Lisa Arnold**, Program Director, shared, "I know that many of today's children are in need of someone to spend time with them in a faithful, nurturing relationship. We can positively influence and change lives through the KIDS HOPE USA mentoring program. One child, one hour, one school and one church are what it takes. I'm looking forward to helping make this a reality at St. Mark's".



Rosenberg-Richmond Helping Hands is a non-profit organization formed by area churches to help people in need in West Fort Bend County. St. Mark's is a covenant church with Helping Hands, having signed a pledge promising financial support and donations from at least two yearly food and clothing drives.

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP



Our Youth Mission Team

In July the youth of St. Mark's will be participating in a mission trip sponsored by the Cathedral Urban Service Experience through Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston. This four-day mission experience will include working at Plant It Forward, Hope Episcopal Church and School, Palmer Episcopal Church Way Station, the Salvation Army and the Beacon, the non-profit ministry of Christ Church Cathedral. Huge thanks go to **Chris Abbott** who organized the trip and **Lisa and Vince Arnold** who will be the adult chaperones on the trip. The youth attending will be **Jacob Thomas, Cole Mottin, Vincent Arnold, Austin Cherry and Amber Cabrera**. This is indeed an exciting opportunity for our youth to participate in a project that serves so many others in the greater Houston area!

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Workers Create a Passageway Between the Church and Education Building.

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Our New Outbuilding for Storage and Activities



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 1627 Richmond, TX 77406
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LEARNING TO SERVE CHRIST AT THE CONVERGENCE CONFERENCE



Convergence Conference Participants

Convergence is a leadership conference for youth in grades 9-12 from across the Diocese of Texas who want to grow in their relationship with Christ and connect with other youth. The goal of Convergence is to equip the youth leaders with the necessary skills to lead in their home church. Convergence is a high energy event that includes worship, games and programs. This year Convergence was held at St. Stephen's, Austin and attending from St. Mark's were **Alexandra Arnold, Stephanie Udayan, Brett Mottin, and Will Moen**. The theme was Living is Christ, and Philippians 1:21 "For to me living is Christ, and dying is gain," was the guiding verse.

As we go out to serve others this summer, say this prayer for the Social Order from The Book of Common Prayer, page 826:

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget; the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Don't "do" church - "Be" church!