

# ARE YOU READY?

Issue 17 ● St. Mark's Episcopal Church ● September 2014



**"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." (Mark 10: 27)**

## ARE YOU READY FOR.....THE FUTURE?



The St. Mark's Vestry recently approved twelve strategic goals for the years 2015-2017. The goals were defined based on the parish-wide survey responses, demographic data, and visioning sessions of the Strategic Planning Task Force. St. Mark's strategic goals for the next three years are:

1. Staff for growth and improve administrative, financial, and communication systems.
2. Develop a team of lay leaders with strong management and leadership skills.
3. Cultivate a culture of stewardship that motivates all people to share God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure with St. Mark's.
4. Make available a wider variety of groups that meet real needs and interests.
  - Objective: Improve the ministry that meets the needs of youth.
  - Objective: Establish a ministry that meets the needs of senior adults.
5. Welcome all people into our church family through evangelism.
6. Strengthen caring relationships as St. Mark's continues to grow.
7. Expand the physical spaces for worship and use our beautiful outdoor setting in a wise way.
8. Increase the number of parishioners active in Christian Formation at each age level.
9. Engage the community in learning through the St. Mark's University.
10. Serve God's children in need through Social Outreach.
11. Provide a broad spectrum of Episcopal worship experiences.
12. Ensure a strong connection between the church and the school with mutual support.

If you would like to work with the Strategic Planning Task Force to define objectives and action items to meet these goals, contact Barbara Scheibner, Leader of Strategic Planning, at [barbs4@earthlink.net](mailto:barbs4@earthlink.net).

## ARE YOU READY FOR...CHRISTIAN FORMATION?



**Kids' Kingdom in Action**

Starting **September 7, 2014**, **Kids' Kingdom** will begin a twelve-week unit on Holy Communion. This unit will include lessons on the seasons/colors of the church year, church music, the altar, sacred vessels, hang-

ings, the communion service itself, and Passover, including a Seder Dinner to give historical perspective to the Last Supper.

**Youth in grades 7-12** will be encouraged to attend a new Christian Formation Class designed especially for them starting Sunday, **September 7, 2014**. This weekly class will use two different curricula. The first one entitled "Making it Real and Relevant" makes use of video and music clips that tie into lessons from the Bible. The second curriculum entitled "Parables Remix" features videos that are used to help illustrate Jesus' original parables in a modern day setting. For more information contact **Chris Abbott**, Leader, Children & Youth Christian Formation.

**Adult Christian Formation** will also begin on **September 7, 2014** with a class in Bible 101. Please join us for an exhilarating course in how to study the Bible. If God is calling you to be a lay minister teacher for Adult Christian Formation, contact **Rob Hamon** at [nukee00@gmail.com](mailto:nukee00@gmail.com).

## ARE YOU READY FOR...NEW ARRIVALS?



"Children are a gift from God; they are His reward". (Psalm 127:3) We have had many new babies that have arrived recently and many that are arriving soon. The **New Arrivals Ministry** has been created to welcome these gifts from God into our church family. A goody basket filled with baby supplies and coupons for products that parents purchase will be given to new parents. **Melissa Hamon**, Newcomer Ministry Leader, would welcome donations of baby products and

coupons. You can reach her at [mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org).



# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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## Are You Ready for... Two Services?

We at St. Mark's are being blessed by God, and our church family is growing. It's time to respond to the growth of our church! Beginning on Sunday, **September 7, 2014**, we will add an additional worship service to our Sunday schedule and have new service times.

The **two Sunday services will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15a.m.** with music and Eucharist at both services. You can experience our **gracious hospitality before and after each service.** **Christian Formation** classes for Godly Play, Kids' Kingdom, Youth, and Adults will be held from **10:10a.m. to 11:00a.m.**



**1 or 2**  
Which  
service  
will you  
attend?



## Are You Ready for... Some Football?



Break out your Texans jerseys! Be ready to do lots of high-fiving. The men of St. Mark's will gather in the church "man cave" to cheer on the Texans on **Sunday, September 14, 2014**. The game between the Oakland Raiders and the Texans will start at 3:25p.m. Come watch the Texans beat Matt Schaub! Pizza and sodas will be provided. Bring your own

beer and wine. Prayers for God's support will start at 2:45p.m.



Dear PAST,  
Thank you for  
all the lessons.

Dear FUTURE,  
I'm READY  
NOW!!