

# St. Mark's

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### *Ministries*

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

- Isaiah 6:8



### **Acolytes/Chalice Bearer**

Our parish life and all ministries of our parish are shaped and transformed by our worship. Each of the ministries described below serves an important purpose in our worship at St. Mark's.

**Crucifer** - the minister who carries the cross at the properly appointed times and assists the celebrant in setting the table at the Eucharist. In our parish, the crucifer also bears the first chalice during the time of communion.

**Torchbearer** - the minister who lights the candles before the service, carries the torches at the properly appointed times and extinguishes the candles after the service.

**Gospel Bearer** - the minister who carries the gospel book at the properly appointed times. In our parish, the gospel bearer also bears the second chalice during the time of communion.

Contact: Benno Scheibner      [barbs4@earthlink.net](mailto:barbs4@earthlink.net)

### **Adult Christian Formation**

Adult Christian Formation comes in several flavors, and at St. Mark's one of our most enjoyed adult classes involves Bible study. We have developed a simple, four-step method that anyone, regardless of their 'Bible-study-maturity', can embrace and make their own. Come join Adult Christian Formation on Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 10:15am!!

Contact: Rob Hamon      [nukee00@gmail.com](mailto:nukee00@gmail.com)

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild prepares the church for all worship services cares for our altar, our fine linens, and the flowers in preparation for all services. Individuals work in teams and serve one week per month. Teams meet once a week (during their service week) to set up the altar for the Sunday services.

Contact: Bettye Newberry      [l.newberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.newberry@sbcglobal.net)

## Children's Chapel

*2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 10:30 am (starting September 24)*

Jesus reached out to the children and so will we! On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month we have children's chapel during the 10:30 a.m. service. Children's Chapel is designed for children approximately 4 to 8 years old so those children hear the Scriptures at their level. At the beginning of the service, the children and chapel leaders will process from the parish hall to a designated space where the children will hear a children's sermon, sing songs, say a children's creed, and pray their own prayers of the people. Children's Chapel is held during the first part of the service and the children eventually join the rest of the congregation in the sanctuary (big church) in time for Communion.

**We would love to offer this unique gift every Sunday, but we need more volunteers to assist our lead teachers!** If you are interested in joining us in the ministry of Christ's Kingdom or have questions please contact one of the lead teachers below:

Contact: Anne Geraci  
Shan Harris

[peptobismalpink@gmail.com](mailto:peptobismalpink@gmail.com)  
[shanharris02@yahoo.com](mailto:shanharris02@yahoo.com)

## The St. Mark's Choir

The St. Mark's Choir is a wonderful group of individuals who love to sing and make a joyful sound for the Lord. There are no requirements to be a member of the choir, except a love of music and a love of others.

The St. Mark's Choir leads in worship at the 10:30 a.m. service. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., as well as Sunday mornings, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. You do not need to be able to read music, and there are no auditions.

The St. Mark's Choir offers other special musical events throughout the Christian Year, such as cantatas or other major choral works during Advent, Lent, and Easter. These special events are accompanied by instrumental chamber music ensembles. There are also opportunities to sing solos, as well as singing in small ensembles.

Contact: Tom Thompson

[tthompson@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:tthompson@stmarksfortbend.org)

## **Christian Formation Grades 6-12**

Christian Formation classes for youth in grades 6-12 are held every Sunday at 9:30 in classroom E on the second floor of the St. Mark's education building. The curricula for the class is titled *Teen Text*. This curricula 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. For example, using guidance from Jesus the students discussed how to resolve conflicts. 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.

Contact: Chris Abbott [christinedabbott@gmail.com](mailto:christinedabbott@gmail.com)

## **Daughters of the King (DOK)**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. The Order of the Daughters of the King is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. We are an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. An Order is a community under a religious rule; especially one requiring members to take solemn vows. We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings; we take life-long vows to follow the Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service. The Daughters of the King at St. Mark's is a group of wonderful women who are devoted to God and God's call on their lives. We have grown greatly over the last three years. Being a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King Mary of Bethany Chapter (St. Mark's chapter) is a great way to grow spiritually through community.

Contact: Jeri Culberson [jeri.culberson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeri.culberson@sbcglobal.net)

## **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

If you are a woman and attend St. Mark's, you belong to the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)! The National Episcopal Church Women organization 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. As part of this larger organization, St. Mark's ECW shares its vision:

*Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a Godspark – shining and sharing the love of Christ.*

Verna Dozier, theologian and Biblical scholar, said, "Don't tell me what you believe; tell me what difference it makes that you believe." To this end, St. Mark's ECW makes a difference by touching lives through fellowship, spiritual growth and outreach. The women of St. Mark's have always provided the leadership role in preparing for parish meals and special events and being integral members of parish ministries.

We are planning fellowship events such as an international pot luck, Christmas gift exchange, and a retreat are already planned. Come share your ideas for fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach.

Contact: Bettye Newberry [l.newberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.newberry@sbcglobal.net) or  
Barbara Scheibner [barbs4@earthlink.net](mailto:barbs4@earthlink.net)

### **Episcopal Youth Community**

St. Mark's has an active and growing youth group (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade). We meet on scheduled Sunday afternoons for fellowship and a time to challenge and encourage each other with topical discussions concerning our faith. We have goals and our purpose statement is – "St. Mark's EYC Ministry exists to REACH the youth in our community/our friends, and CONNECT with other Christians, to help PRAY/GROW in our faith, and to challenge ourselves to grow and to DISCOVER our Ministry and HONOR God with our life."

We enjoy fellowship, spiritual growth, and serving God by serving our neighbors through certain outreach projects. Come join us! We always can use Prayer Buddies, Chaperones, friends who love food, or anybody who would just like to "hangout" and talk. We are currently looking for leaders and assistants. If you want to help or check us out, please contact us!

Contact: Melissa Hamon [mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org)

## **Godly Play for Children**

Godly Play is one of your child's first introductions to learning about Jesus, and his love for all of us in a Church setting! Godly play is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian Education and spiritual growth for ages 3-5. Each week a new lesson is told thru stories and symbols to encourage curiosity and lots of questions! It will develop your child for a deeper understanding of the Bible stories, symbols and traditions of the Church. We all look forward to having your child/children and friends Sunday at 9:30 am in the Godly Play room!

Contact: Mary Moen                      [moenmh@gmail.com](mailto:moenmh@gmail.com)

## **Hospitality**

We are going to continue to have a sign-up for “Hosting” on the Parish Life bulletin board in the Parish Hall. The teams are responsible for bringing a light snack to put out in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour between services and after the 10:30am service. You will also make sure the coffee pots are full after each service. The time commitment is very small, as it is only between services and just after the 10:30am service. As you feel led, please sign up for a week.

Contact: Melissa Hamon                      [mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org)

## **KIDS HOPE USA**

Kids Hope pairs church members with at-risk kids in supportive, mentoring relationships that help a child feel loved and valued. We spend one hour per week at Cora Thomas Elementary School. We read, talk, play games and sometimes help with math. Each mentoring relationship is wrapped in prayer by a prayer partner. We occasionally will need the help of a substitute mentor when the regular mentor may be unavailable. Please consider one of these wonderful ways to reach out and help a child who needs us! You'll be so glad you did.

Contact: Delores Baldwin                      [deebaldwin1@gmail.com](mailto:deebaldwin1@gmail.com)



## **Kids' Kingdom**

All children in grades 1-5 are encouraged to attend Kids' Kingdom classes in classroom G in the education building at 9:30. This fall the Kids' Kingdom group will start by studying the Old Testament stories of Gideon and Samson. The study of these stories will include constructing a frog to "Fully Rely on God", making bandanas, a readers' theater titled, *Samson Man*, building a temple with blocks and watching a video titled *Samson and Delilah*. Later in the fall, the study will include the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus. During that unit the children will bake, complete a Bible challenge game, a readers' theater titled *Breaking News*, paint glass votive candle holders and create a "Special Me" picture. All of those fun activities are designed to reinforce the lesson and message presented in the Bible story with applications for the students in their daily lives. Kids' Kingdom follows a rotation model with Christine Ronning, Sara Hawkes, Amy Wacker and Mary Anne Simicek all serving as teachers, Shan Harris and Anne Geraci assisting and Chris Abbott organizing the lessons and overseeing the class.

Contact: Chris Abbott [christinedabbott@gmail.com](mailto:christinedabbott@gmail.com)

## **Lay Readers**

The oral tradition of reading Scriptures aloud has been part of the church's worship since the church was born. The story has been told from one generation to the next, and we carry on with this tradition at St. Mark's while the lay readers read the lessons, Psalms, and prayers of the people during our worship.

Contact: Kimberly Hart [office@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:office@stmarksfortbend.org)

## **The Men of St. Mark's**

The Men of St. Mark's is a group dedicated to building stronger relationships: between men and God, between men and St. Mark's, between men and their families and between men and their friends. The five top reasons why we have a Men's Group are:

- Spiritual growth
- Building of relationships
- Engagement with the St. Mark's family



- Service – helping to build God’s kingdom
- Fellowship and food

The group meets twice a month (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays) at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. The meetings include socializing, a short inspirational video and discussion, chocolate chip cookies and jerky, planning for future events, and prayer.

Throughout the year there are other special activities where we get to know each other better, while serving God, St. Mark’s and each other. Events have included doing yard work, cooking for the church pancake supper and fish fries, serving soup and salad to the congregation during Lent, and helping men in need.

But it is not all work. When we are not busy serving God, we watch Texans games together and have a special gathering for eating manly food, shooting, juggling, bird watching, stargazing, and playing hillbilly golf. Join us!

Contact: Benno Scheibner      [barbs4@earthlink.net](mailto:barbs4@earthlink.net)

### **The Prime Timers Ministry**

St. Mark’s Prime Timers is a ministry focusing on the unique interests and needs of older adults at least 50-years-old. Joyful Christian fellowship is a primary focus with such happenings as organized outings to local places and events and dining at local restaurants. The members involved can regularly define group experiences most meaningful to them! Tours of historical or religious places? Sporting events? Cultural events? Fresh and diverse experiences are planned.

Another focus of Prime Timers is personal growth through learning on topics truly relevant to the 50+ life stages. Topics on real life issues might include fostering healthy intergenerational relationships, managing the change from employment to retirement, using twenty-first century technologies, living as empty-nesters, navigating Medicare and Social Security, and estate planning.

We all have talents, experience and wisdom in different areas that can be shared to bless others. Building strong relationships with each other will be

part of Prime Timers as we offer spiritual and social connectedness to each other during medical treatment or illness or provide empathetic caring during a family challenge. A goal is also to reach out to elderly adults providing activities, visits and telephone calls that support them.

A person does not need to be a member of our parish to join this ministry. St. Mark's Prime Timers invite others 50+ to join in this meaningful fellowship and continued learning.

Contact: Barbara Scheibner [barbs4@earthlink.net](mailto:barbs4@earthlink.net)

### **Sewing Guild**

The Sewing Guild of St. Mark's (known affectionately as the "Sewing Sistahs") is a friendly group of ladies who get together twice a month -- usually on a Wednesday --and socialize, sew, and have a pot luck. All of our sewing projects are specifically chosen for one purpose--to further the love of Christ. We're growing!

This year we have made baby and toddler quilts for Texas Children's Hospital, sewed tote purses from recycled blue jeans and filled each tote with small bottles of shampoo and other toiletries and we made colorful pillowcases. Both the purses and pillow cases were dedicated to the Ft. Bend Women's Shelter. We are currently preparing book pillows for children's families who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. . Our last project for 2017 is to make scarf/hoodies supporting Lord of the Streets, an outreach of the Diocese of Texas.

If you want to participate but can't because of work or family obligations, we will accommodate you by fixing up a "homework kit" with fabric and pattern. I want to encourage you to sign up, pick up your pincushion and scissors and come have a happy, sewing experience!

Contact: Jeannie Reaves [gigigipson20145@yahoo.com](mailto:gigigipson20145@yahoo.com)

### **Social Outreach Ministry**

St. Mark's has a Social Outreach Ministry that plans and spearheads a number of outreach projects each year. We believe that reaching out to our community and the world creates a better place to live for those less fortunate, while enhancing our experience of god. Jesus Christ teaches that

through opportunities to give, we grow and benefit greatly as we serve others.

This ministry is looking for caring souls who want to make a tangible difference in the lives of others. Each team member needs to be motivated by compassion and inspired to plan and implement an outreach project that will better our community, our country, or our world. We heartily welcome new members and new ideas on how to best help those in need.

Contact: Isobel Gotschall      [bbell04@yahoo.com](mailto:bbell04@yahoo.com)  
Rhonda Yamauchi      [rhonda.yamauchi@gmail.com](mailto:rhonda.yamauchi@gmail.com)

### **St. Mark's Episcopal School**

*Our Theme this year is:*



St. Mark's Episcopal School opened its doors August 25, 2014 with 13 students. Three of the four classrooms opened, each with a certified teacher and a trained classroom assistant. Currently, 32 students are enrolled. Within a nurturing Christian community, St. Mark's Episcopal School builds in each child the foundation for good character and a lifelong love of learning.

*The mission of St. Mark's Episcopal School is to encourage spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development in young children through an enriched curriculum, rooted in the Christian faith.*

St. Mark's Episcopal School philosophy is to foster an early childhood education which honors the unique value and beauty of all children as creations of a loving, empowering God. Based on nurturing Christian values which mirror our Episcopal identity, St. Mark's Episcopal School integrates spiritual formation, joyful discovery, and playful creativity into our daily curriculum, enabling children to reach their full potential.

Every Wednesday at 9:15 am we have Chapel. This year we are including a Bible Story Enrichment where we have a scripture for the week, and provide additional activities to support the Bible Stories learned in Chapel.

St. Mark's Episcopal School is a Texas State Licensed facility. We are currently working to become accredited with the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). We have a strong, hardworking staff, and as our school grows so does the need volunteers in the office and in the classrooms. Our enrollment is steadily increasing, the possibility of adding another certified teacher and a teaching assistant is on the horizon.

Our motto this year is *One School, One Team, Making a Difference!*

We need your help! Our school would appreciate and encourage anyone who could give of their time and talents.

Below are a few suggested opportunities to help. Of course, we welcome volunteers at any time! Just let us know how you want to help:

Come to the school as a guest reader.

Come to the school and share your career with the students.

Volunteer in the school office one or two days a week.

Volunteer on Wednesdays in the After School Care Program from 2:30-4:00 during our staff meetings.

Work with community leaders for marketing opportunities and community outreach.

Come to the school and lead a Fun and Fitness Program.

Organize our growing library for the students and staff.

Help with service projects and special programs like the egg hunt, hay ride, trunk or treat, etc.

Come to the school and lead the Godly Play sessions once a week on Wednesdays for our older students.

Volunteer as a substitute teacher and/or teaching assistant.

**Substitute teachers and teaching assistants are always needed.**

St. Mark's will Summer Discovery Camps beginning in June with an extended day program available. Volunteers are needed for both morning camp sessions and afternoon enrichment programs. If you would like to come and teach a craft or help with arts and crafts, please let us know.

St. Mark's Episcopal School is a ministry that mirrors our Episcopal identity as it provides an exemplary early childhood education program. Come and join us in providing a strong educational program based on Christian values. Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged.

### ***EXEMPLARY STANDARDS FOR EXEMPLARY RESULTS***

Contacts:

Head of School: Dr. Suzanne Welch

[school@stmarksforbend.org](mailto:school@stmarksforbend.org)

Office Manager: Jerri Carington

[schooloffice@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:schooloffice@stmarksfortbend.org)

### **St. Mark's University**

The goal of St. Mark's University is to engage the community in learning about a variety of subjects from a Christian perspective. We will offer many learning opportunities such as: financial planning, parenting classes, strengthening marriage workshops, fitness instruction, language courses, understanding mental health, life skills, etc., using trained lay persons or outside resources.

Since this is a new ministry, we are looking for suggestions of topics of interest, and also for people who are interested in leading a class. If you have suggestions, would like more information, or are interested in leading a class, we would love to hear from you!

Contact: Alysoun Marks

[alysounmarks@gmail.com](mailto:alysounmarks@gmail.com)

### **Ushers and Greeters**

How would you like to be a part of a ministry that welcomes people into our Sunday worship? We are looking for ushers and greeters for our 10:30 service. Ushers and greeters share hospitality to visitors and parishioners every Sunday morning. Responsibilities include greeting all who enter the church, distributing service bulletins and collecting the offering. In addition, ushers assist those with special needs, help ensure that seating is available for all in attendance, and check that the church has a clean appearance after the service. If you are interested in being a part of this very important ministry.

Contact: Melissa Hamon

[mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org](mailto:mhamon@stmarksfortbend.org)







Alysoun Marks  
Senior Warden

Dr. Suzanne Welch  
Head of School

Kimberly Hart  
Executive Administrative Assistant

Melissa Hamon  
Director of Parish Life

Sandra Barkerding  
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Tom Thompson  
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#### **St. Mark's 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.