



## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

To all seekers and inquirers;

Let me share with you what I have learned about wonderful St. Mark's since my arrival in October, 2018, as the Rector.

We are both old and new. While St. Mark's has a long history in the Richmond/Rosenberg area, we moved to our current location in 2008, and its membership has grown several times over in less than 15 years. That willingness to risk and start over is reflected in St. Mark's open doors and welcoming atmosphere. Most faces in our church have been here less than 6 years.

St. Mark's is a church at which you will quickly become known, recognized and befriended! We have learned to celebrate together, both in want and in plenty. We have experienced the grace of God at work in our growing church family. We are used to feeling "new", and learning about the Episcopal Church, its theology, history and traditions. Many of us know exactly what it feels like to risk walking into a sanctuary full of strangers, finding a home and a community of support and care.

We are a diverse church family that seeks to get along with each other and be the body of Christ, despite what might be going on in the world that is divisive. There is a genuine effort to cultivate the "fruits of the spirit" in our lives. That we may be one in Christ, living with compassion, tolerance and support for the wide variety of people we are, and the life experiences we bring. We come from not only all over the United States, but also the world.

We have a focus on food at St. Mark's, sharing it in fellowship, planning monthly reasons to gather together over a meal, cooking to feed the hungry, collecting food for our local food bank and having cooking classes each Summer on healthy eating habits.

We are blessed to sponsor a delightful preschool that is intimate and caring, which follows high Episcopal educational standards. It has a high teacher to student ratio and an excellent curriculum. Our preschool is unusual in our area in that it offers classes which start at 18 months old.

Christian Formation (Sunday school or Bible Study) has continued online throughout the COVID epidemic and we are committed to offering ways to learn, both in person and online, for all ages this coming year.

We love our music program and our Director of Music, Tom Thompson! The excellent music in our worship services comes from a wide variety of traditions. We welcome all people to join our choir. As a congregation we sing together with fervor and joy. Musical events for pleasure and fellowship are also part of our wonderful music program.



## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

We are delighted with youth minister, Hannah Smith, who plans creative ways for our youth to gather, connect and serve together! Our church recognizes the importance of having a youth program for our teens, to encourage, nurture them and give them a sense of community.

Our worship of God is the core of our common life. It is an expression of our gratitude to God and a source of nutrition for our souls. We all missed sharing the Eucharist terribly during the pandemic and are grateful to be able to gather in worship and lift our hearts to the Lord. We have two services on Sundays and other special services throughout the year, according to the season.

Are you seeking a community to worship with? Do you have questions about God? About Jesus? Do you wonder what the Episcopal Church is like? Perhaps you are tired and long for rest for your weary soul. We are a humble assortment of folks who are grateful to be part of the household of God and we may be the home you are seeking. Wherever you are on your journey, you will find a welcome here with us!

Wishing you peace and God's continued work in your life,

The Rev. Susie Hebert  
Rector  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Texas