



### MEET OUR CONSULTANT

Dr. Kurt Appel is a Senior Consultant for the Church Division of Cargill Associates, a stewardship development firm dedicated to raising funds for churches and organizations both nationally and internationally.

An ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, Dr. Appel spent a decade in full-time ministry serving large and small membership churches on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. With his background in church development and experience in the local church, his ministry is focused upon helping churches become disciple making congregations.

Prior to entering ministry Dr. Appel was an Engineer with Sharp Electric, Inc., a major commercial and industrial electrical contractor. He completed his undergraduate work in Mechanical Engineering at Louisiana Tech University, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Kurt and his wife Claudia have three children Meg, Olivia and Blake. The Appels currently reside in Gulfport, MS.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Vision Awareness Service, January 6

On Sunday, January 6, our leadership team, with the help of Father Bert, lay speakers, and a campaign video will lead a special service designed to inform us about the new building project. Join us as we celebrate what God is doing in our midst.

### Spiritual Life Prayer Vigil, January 12

Beginning at 7 AM., Saturday, January 12 and ending at 7 PM on the same day, we will be challenged to pray for our church, our ministries, our community and our world.

### Ministry Celebration, January 20

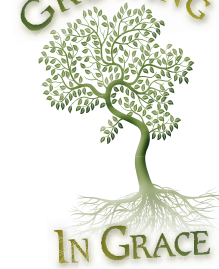
On Sunday, January 20, you will be invited to participate in our Ministry Celebration. The Celebration will give each of us an opportunity to discover the vastness of our mission and ministries. Want to know why we need the new building? Come to the Celebration and the need will be made very clear.

*"...being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*  
-Phl 1:6

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 1627  
Richmond, TX 77469



## GROWING IN GRACE St. Mark's Episcopal Church



Dear <<name\_salutation>>

It's exciting to begin this new chapter of Growing in Grace, a campaign birthed from our yearlong process of a parish-wide survey and strategic planning. The strategic plan with its goals offers a road map for our particular ministry in growing God's kingdom in Fort Bend County. In support of a number of our goals, we are ready to embark on the first phase of expanding our facilities for an education and program building and St. Mark's preschool.

It was not long ago when the thirteen or so pillars of our parish led the St. Mark's congregation in moving from the old church in Rosenberg to our current location. Those pillars had a vision of a church that exists for those who are not yet its members, and most of us in the parish today are the beneficiaries of that empowered and bold vision.

We are now called to write the next chapter of this special story at St. Mark's. Our future education and preschool building will transform the lives of children; it will serve our needs for mission and ministry; and it will be the place where future parishioners will come to know the love of Christ we know at St. Mark's.

I am reminded that God's grace always precedes and follows us, and so I invite you to join me in writing this new chapter of Growing in Grace. We are rooted in the solid core values of our church, and we can look to our familiar St. Mark's tree image for the future that lies ahead. In the words of the psalmist, our vision and mission are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield fruit in their due season.

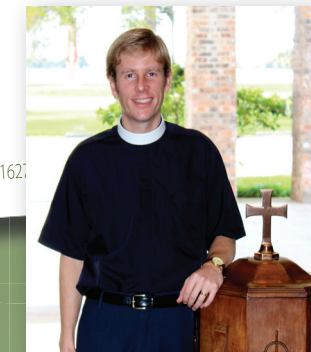
A new season is upon us and you are invited to share in it. First and foremost, pray with me. Your prayer will shape the course of this campaign, and our entire church will be transformed by your faithful prayer. Second, please consider joining a campaign team. There are a number of opportunities to get involved and contribute in the Growing in Grace campaign. Third, I encourage you to attend the Growing in Grace events. These events will be the moments we most cherish in turning the page to the next chapter of our St. Mark's story.

Your prayer and participation are the ways in which you can be involved in what is certainly a unique opportunity for each and every one of us. Please join me in this journey and may God continue to bless our church growing in grace.

Faithfully,

*Bert +*  
Bert

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### IN THIS ISSUE

- A Letter From Fr. Bert
- A Vision
- Our Leadership Team
- Where Can I Help?
- Meet Our Consultant Kurt Appel

### COMING SOON

- January 6  
Vision Awareness Sunday
- January 12  
Prayer Vigil 7 AM - 7 PM
- January 20  
Ministry Celebration
- January 27  
Commitment Sunday
- February 10  
First Fruits

# ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## OUR VISION

Yesterday, the pillars of St. Mark's had a vision for a church that exists for those who are not yet its members, and they acted upon that vision for our sake. Today, we are called to write the next chapter for our church growing in the grace that always precedes and follows us. Tomorrow, our future education and preschool building will support the ministries that shape us and the people and children led to be blessed by the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

### Our 2013 Operating Budget - \$245,000

Our operating budget supports the ongoing mission and ministry of St. Mark's. Over the past two years our operating budget has grown, to support the growing ministries of our parish. Our proposed budget for 2013 will be \$245,000, a 5% increase from last year's budget. As our ministries grow, we encourage each household to grow in its ministry of stewardship and prayerfully consider giving more toward the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

### Our Capital Vision - \$1,600,000

#### Christian Formation

Since the beginning of 2011, our Sunday morning Christian formation program has grown from one adult class to two adult classes, a youth class, a Godly Play class for children, and a nursery available for adults wishing to attend their respective classes. The second story of the new building will provide as many as six classrooms with the capability for wireless internet and today's technology.

#### Youth Ministry

One of the most obvious groups of growth in the church has been our youth. The second story of the building will provide a space designated for youth Christian Formation and EYC.

#### Preschool & Nursery

The first floor of the building will accommodate six classrooms for a Monday through Friday preschool unique in offering a formative Episcopal education to the youth in our greater community. The first floor will also provide space for an infant nursery, a toddler nursery, and a Godly Play room to be utilized by the church on Sunday mornings.

#### Fellowship

An area for fellowship will connect the new building with our current building. The fellowship space will be at least 50% larger than our current hospitality room and provide a place for us to congregate before or after services and Sunday morning classes.

#### Liturgy & Worship

With an enlarged nursery in the new building, the current nursery will be renovated into a larger and more accommodating sacristy for the altar guild.

#### Administration

With a connection to those offices in our current building, a church library, a reception area, more office space, and a conference room will be provided on the second floor of the new building.

### Our Parish Capital Goal - \$500,000

Through a generous dollar-for-dollar matching gift of up to \$500,000 from the legacy of Jackie and Dean Leaman, and \$400,000 in funds already secured from the sale of the old church building in Rosenberg, our capital goal for this campaign is \$500,000

Your prayerful support and commitment for this very important endeavor in the life of St. Mark's is crucial. Together, when we all contribute in this way, we the people of St. Mark's will continue **Growing In Grace**

## OUR TEAM

**CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR:** Chris Abbott will be a liaison between all the Team Leaders, Father Bert, Campaign Directors, and our consultant throughout the campaign. She is particularly tasked with organizing lists of names for volunteers and special lists as needed for unique groups throughout the campaign program.

**CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS:** Vince & Lisa Arnold and Lee & Jan Leaman are the lay leaders of the campaign who will coordinate the work of the Leadership Team and inform the congregation of progress.

**VISION AWARENESS TEAM LEADERS:** Kim & Phyllis Janke will lead and implement a church-wide effort to share information and encourage prayer for the program.

**MINISTRY EMPHASIS TEAM LEADERS:** Fairis & Frances Samuelson will coordinate a program to educate the congregation about the ongoing ministry and mission of the church.

**SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM LEADERS:** Andrew & Sarah Peters will organize and implement a time of prayer to lay the spiritual foundation for the campaign.

**CHILDREN/YOUTH TEAM LEADERS:** Rob & Melissa Hamon and Gary & Jeanne Reaves will lead in tithing education and ensure that the children and youth of the church take an active part in the campaign.

**HOSPITALITY TEAM LEADERS:** Bud and Shirley Nordt will be responsible for the food and decorations at the fellowship gatherings throughout the campaign.

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADERS:** Barbara Scheibner and Rhonda Yamauchi will coordinate campaign publicity and inform the congregation of the meaning and message of the program through print and video.

**MAILING TEAM LEADERS:** Bart & Joan Little will coordinate all materials, mailings and other information used during the campaign.

**COMMITMENT TEAM LEADERS:** Bettogene & Mat Coyle and Dwayne & Dorothy Dawlearn will lead in providing

## WHERE CAN I HELP?

Our leadership team is a group of people who have generously agreed to serve as campaign directors, and they are now trained for their tasks.

There is also a need for volunteers on all committees in the ongoing Growing in Grace Campaign. In response to the participation survey and in consultation with Father Bert, all church members will be asked to serve on a particular team.

"When you are asked by a team leader to volunteer, please prayerfully consider doing so," says Growing in Grace Campaign coordinator, Chris Abbott.

"Simply put, the capital campaign to construct an education and preschool building, as well as an expanded fellowship area, cannot succeed without the work of volunteers. This is a church-wide campaign that includes everyone's participation," Chris stressed.

So, when you are asked to help with a campaign-related project, we hope that you will respond with a resounding "Yes!" As always, please keep our faith community and our building project in your prayers.

contacts to homes to receive commitment responses.

**FOLLOW-UP TEAM LEADERS:** Benno & Barbara Scheibner will provide support throughout the giving period and involve new members as they join.

**HOME HOSTS TEAM LEADERS:** Vince & Lisa Arnold, Jan & Lee Leaman, Lyle & Jane Marshall, and Brian & Dorothy Valencia will host family gatherings of church members at their homes.

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

*1 Peter 4:10*

*Discover how you can be involved, too!*