



**St. Mark's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH FORT BEND

**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting  
January 25, 2026**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Annual Parish Meeting  
January 25, 2026  
Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
2. Appreciation and presentation of Gifts to Vestry class of 2025
  3. Rector Report - Rev. Jeremy Bradley
  4. Senior Wardens Report - Mary Anne Helms
  5. Junior Warden's Report - Melissa Hamon
  6. Finance and Stewardship Report - Rock Moen
  7. A Brief Summary of Ministries in 2025
  8. Closing Prayer

## **Rector Report— Rev. Jeremy Bradley**

As I look back on my second year at St. Mark's, I am drawn to reflect on our guiding mission: to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. This calling echoes the Catechism's vision of restoring all people to unity with God and one another in Christ. Yet, the real question lingers: who will carry out this sacred work, and how will we bring it to life? At St. Mark's, we excel in prayer and worship, but our mission also calls us to proclaim the Gospel and champion justice, peace, and love. Who, then, is responsible for uniting people with God? Many might point to me as the priest and say, "That's your job." My answer is: yes, but not only mine.

The Book of Common Prayer states that "The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God." Most of my work takes place among the congregation, though I do my best to be out in the community.

The BCP however, describes the work of the laity, the parishioners of the church, as follows: "The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church." That is a big task, yet as I often tell many of my friends and colleagues in the church, the community of St. Mark's may be small, but they are mighty.

Here in Richmond, TX, as followers of Jesus Christ, our mission shines bright: to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. We live out the first part through vibrant worship, heartfelt prayers, sincere fellowship, and faithful stewardship—areas where St. Mark's truly thrives. The second part, making Him known, is woven into the ministry of every layperson: representing Christ, bearing witness wherever we go, and carrying forward His work of reconciliation.

This past year, we have boldly expanded our outreach, blending traditional drives with hands-on service as the living hands and feet of Jesus. Our latest efforts—food distribution at Helping Hands, meals for Fort Bend Family Promise, and a new partnership with Bowie Elementary—have led us into new territory, allowing us to serve those Jesus calls us to reach. In answering this call, we not only transform lives in our community but also change our own hearts.

Looking ahead, my hope and prayer for St. Mark's is to see every parishioner step more fully into our shared mission. There is an old saying that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. While that is not entirely true here, we would flourish with greater participation from everyone who calls St. Mark's home. Many of our leaders already give so much, and they often share how much more could be accomplished with extra hands. So I invite you: if you are not yet part of a ministry, consider joining one. If you already serve, reflect on whether you might offer a bit more of your time. When we unite our efforts for God's glory, we can witness miracles together.

Thank you all for trusting me and working with me in the Lord's service this past year. I am especially grateful to the Vestry for their hard work in keeping the church running well, and I want to recognize Chris Abbott and Mary Anne Helms for their three years of dedicated service. I also want to thank our wonderful staff at St. Mark's—Kim, Tom, and Reuben. I truly don't know what we would do without you.

Friends, let us embrace our mission with open hearts: to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Let us step boldly into our community, inviting friends, neighbors, and even strangers to come and see the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we join hands in this work over the coming year, may we bear witness to the amazing things God has prepared for us at St. Mark's.

## **Senior Warden Report— Mrs. Mary Anne Helms**

Church Family,

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve St. Mark's as Senior Warden over the course of this past year. I worked closely with Reverend Jeremy, meeting with him on a biweekly basis to discuss church business and make plans to present to vestry to better our church community. The vestry had an excellent year. We started with a day long vestry retreat held here at the church where we were able to engage in team building activities and discuss concerns and ideas for St. Mark's future. Over the course of the year we were able to expand our relationship with Kintess, working hand in hand to support our mutual missions and growth. For myself, it has been a great delight to hear little voices and the pitter patter of little feet in our church hallways upstairs.

One of the biggest concerns that I continually hear from vestry and church members alike is the concern about the size and growth of our parish as well as the yearning for young families and youth to invigorate our parish. Know that myself and my family share your desire. But as we look to the future for St. Mark's, remember that St. Mark's needs the good and faithful work of each and every one of us to achieve the growth that we desire. Growth will not happen without work, instead it falls on the shoulders of each of us. I ask that you prayerfully reflect on what you yourself are doing to help grow St. Mark's. And then consider what you can do. Invite your friends to join us for a service. Share the work that we are doing as the hands and feet of Jesus with your loved ones. Invite them to our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Share our Lent Schedule with friends and invite them to join us on Easter Sunday with the Bishop. Ask your neighborhood to add our worship schedule to their newsletter. Invite St. Mark's to participate in activities in your life – whether it is with your school, or your neighborhood, or a Farmer's Market that you frequent. That is what I ask of you as I step away from St. Mark's Vestry and as Senior Warden.

## **Junior Warden Report — Mrs. Melissa Hamon**

### **Church Maintenance Update**

**General Maintenance** - Throughout the past year, routine inspections and necessary maintenance have been carried out to preserve the overall condition of the church. The HVAC systems received professional servicing to ensure their continued efficiency.

**Classroom E A/C Replacement** - The air conditioning unit located upstairs in Classroom E (left side) was replaced. The vestry approved the purchase of a new 10-ton unit, with the cost of \$32,000 being covered by capital funds following an email motion.

**Electrical Sign Repairs** - During the fall, issues arose with the church's electrical sign. The original installation company has since gone out of business. Kimberly Hart and Rock Moen successfully located a sign company willing to repair the sign and serve as our ongoing contractor for any future needs.

**Fire Suppression System and Pump** - A red tag was issued due to the Fire Suppression System (FSS) not operating at the required PSI of 3000. Previous "band-aid" repairs have resulted in significant expenses, and the red tag situation persists, risking failure to pass the upcoming school inspections in August.

To address this, we replaced the current diesel engine pump system with a new diesel system at a fraction of the cost we were quoted in the past.

The new fire pump was installed in December. Calibration efforts are ongoing, and it is anticipated that the system will be fully operational by the end of January. A contractor has been engaged to perform monthly maintenance on the pump.

**Safety and Equipment Updates** - A new defibrillator has been purchased for the church. New batteries were purchased for the older model and now we have units on the top and bottom floors.

**Roof Replacement** - The sanctuary building received a new roof during the week of March 10th. Because we were able to use a roofing company recommended by church members, we saved money on the supplies and installation of a new roof.

**Painting and Cleaning** - Painting was completed on the Outback, some upstairs classrooms, plus church and school exteriors. We were able to pay for the painting of classrooms, church interior and exterior, including the "Outback" building, with funds left over from an insurance claim on our roof.

A new cleaning service was hired to cover the Sexton's medical leave of absence.

**Plumbing and Lighting** - Several toilets have been replaced, and plumbing repairs have been completed by volunteers.

A light fixture in Classroom E was replaced with an LED. Going forward, all lighting fixtures that require replacement will be switched to LED to reduce bulb replacements and heat output caused by less efficient fixtures.

**Landscaping and Parish Involvement** - The scheduled parish workday in April 2025 was cancelled due to inclement weather. Nevertheless, the landscaper, Carlos Rodriguez, took on some beautification

projects. His team continues to deliver regular landscaping services, including lawn care and tree trimming, to maintain the church's inviting appearance. A successful parish clean-up day was held in October, and another is planned before Easter. Special thanks go to our youth and parish volunteers for their ongoing dedication to keeping the property beautiful and well-maintained.

**Brivo System** - We did have to replace the key pad in the school office that came from capital funds.

**Acknowledgements** - This Junior Warden would like to tell you how much your donations of time talent and treasure mean to the upkeep of the church. God's house often needs maintenance, and it could not be completed without these gifts to the church.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our parish administrator, Kimberly Hart, for handling many responsibilities typically assigned to the Junior Warden. Our close collaboration ensures that St. Mark's remains in excellent condition and provides a beautiful space for worship.

I also wish to thank all the volunteers for their support and look forward to continuing these efforts to benefit our church community.

**Finance Report – Mr. Rock Moen**

In 2023 our Vestry passed a transition plan with the calling of Father Jeremy Bradley to be our Rector. With this plan, \$150,000 was set aside over the next 3 years to help subsidize our Budgets as we rebuild the membership of our Church from a Family Church (0 – 50 ASA) to a Pastoral Church (51 – 150 ASA), and eventually to a Program Church (151 – 350 ASA or Larger... Today, St. Mark’s is classified as a Pastoral Church as our ASA continues to grow. Our ASA is up 20% over last year, our pledging families/units are up 10% and our Pledge Income is up 6%.

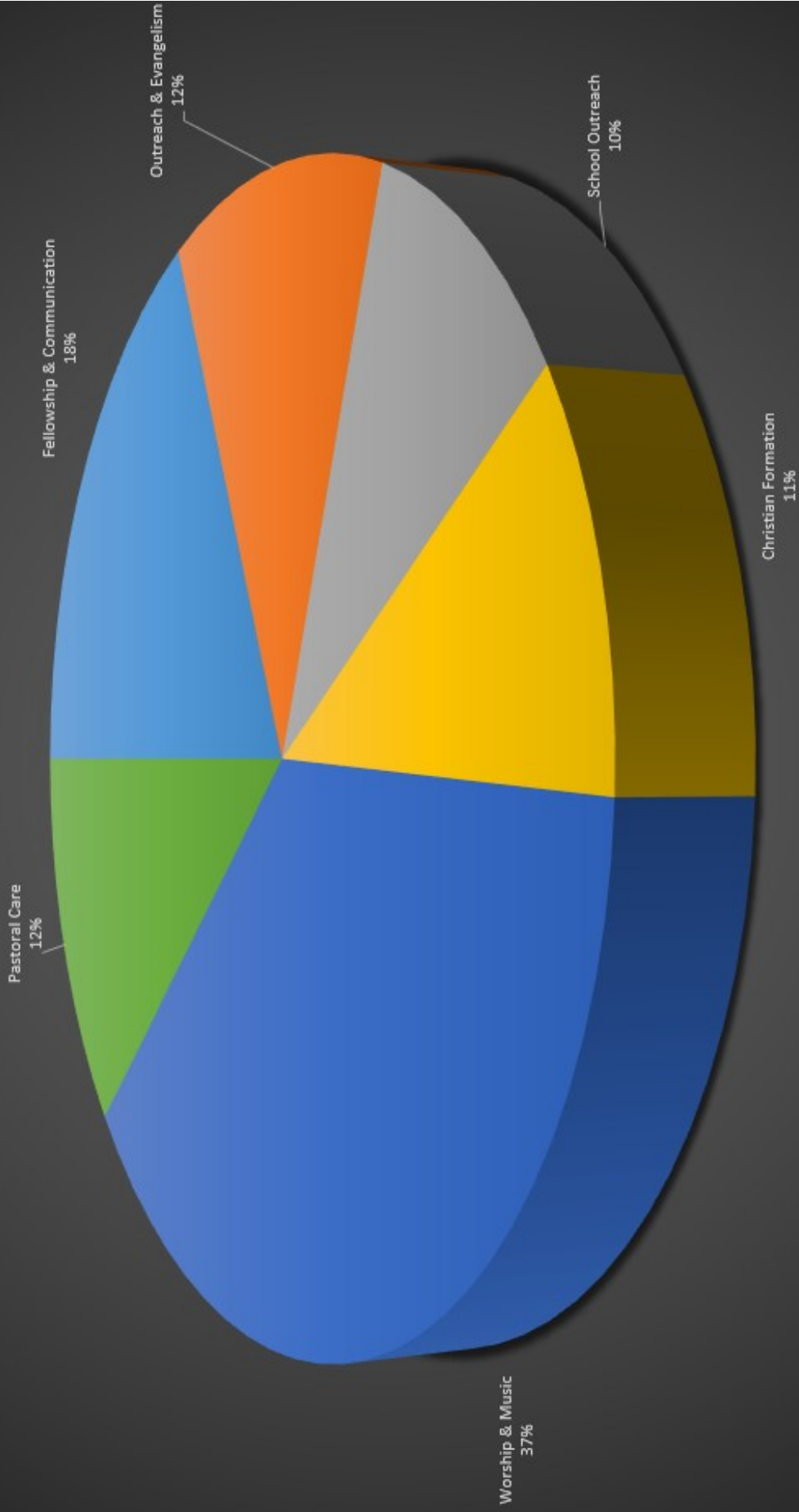
FY 2024 our Church operated at a loss of (\$44,177.47), this past FY 2025 we operated our Church at another loss of (\$44,915.89), FY 2026 we have a planned Deficit Budget of (\$25,770.00) and we have a plan to operate FY 2027 at a No Loss Budget. We are a growing Church for the first time in 7 years, FY 2024 we had almost \$22,000 in Non-Pledge Income including Plate Offerings. Our Church is of the age where we are constantly having to spend money on Capital Improvements, this year we replaced our Roof over our Sanctuary, replaced our largest of 9 HVAC units, 4th replaced over the past 3 years, repaired our Digital Sign, Painted inside and outside of our Church. Over the past two years we have replaced lighting, doors, windows, plumbing fixtures, alarm system, repaired our fire suppression system, copier, landscaping, etc. It’s expensive to keep a Church Building operational year by year. We appreciate everyone’s willingness to give God’s money to our Church to grow our Ministry.

This year with a generous donation by Scott Mark’s in honor of Alysoun and other Memorials given in honor of members of our Church, our Endowment/Memorial Fund is near \$100,000.

Please review our Ministry Focused Budget on the following page of \$434,000. Please notice that we have continued to provide 40% of our budget based on Outreach Ministry of Fellowship/Communication, Outreach/Evangelism, and School Outreach and 60% is Worship/Music, Christian Formation, and Pastoral Care – In Reach. St. Mark’s is blessed with “No Debt”. Thank you all for your continued Commitment and Generous support of our Church.

Total Cash Asset Comparison Year to Year				
		EOY 2023	EOY 2024	EOY 2025
General Fund 01 (Less Prepaid Pledges Upcoming Year)		\$195,708.23	\$242,922.33	\$169,759.03
Endowment / Memorial Fund		\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$97,432.97
Capital Fund 50		\$284,386.07	\$418,649.19	\$378,626.63
Petty Cash		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total		\$520,194.30	\$701,671.52	\$645,918.63
Capex			\$84,000	\$100,000
Loss			(\$44,177.47)	(\$44,915.89)

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Ministry Focused Budget - \$434,000



### **School Report — Mrs. Nancy Brown**

Kintess School is under the directorship of Karine Pousset.

School hours are from 5:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Kintess has significantly grown over the past year.

They presently have 60 students.

The school uses the downstairs school rooms and three upstairs classrooms.

I attended 2 school events last year.

- Traditions of Heritage. Each student studied a famous person, then they dressed up as that person and gave a verbal and written presentation
- Christmas program. Students sang and danced to several songs. Some were even sung in French and Spanish.

We have a signed lease until 2027.

It is very profitable for St. Mark's to have them renting space from us.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me.

### **Site Base Planning Committee - Mrs. Michelle D'Anutono**

The Committee began meeting in June of 2025 and have had several meetings since then. The Committee reviewed the current property of St. Mark's, which is currently a little over 13 acres, and discussed the real estate changes going on around our church now and in the future. We identified potential short term and long-term goals of the Church.

The purpose of this committee is to handle any real estate items that impact our property in any way.

While we are a working committee, the priority is for the congregation to be informed of any discussions and decision making. What does this look like? Primarily through town hall meetings and other communication tools.

Improvements discussed for 1-to-5-year goals, and 6-to-10- year goals:

- Additional Parking (with losing parking where reading road will go through our property).
- Potential, future sanctuary – what size and location
- Labyrinth
- Walking trails – Community Garden
- Outdoor worship area - Pavillion cookout area

### **Acolytes/Chalice Bearers – Mrs. Kathy Barzilla**

Being an acolyte is a great way to learn about the importance of the liturgy in the Episcopal Church. You get the opportunity to grow in faith by serving others during the service. We welcome both youth and adults who would like to elevate their worship experience by serving in this important ministry.

We are so thankful for the consistent involvement of our youth and adult acolytes who are all very dedicated to serving in this capacity. We would like several people, both youth and adults trained in the rotation. We are excited about training more adults to serve as Crucifer and the possibilities for more youth Gospel Bearers and Torch Bearers in 2026. Kathy Barzilla serves as the acolyte trainer and we can train acolytes at any time. If anyone is interested in serving as an acolyte at St. Mark's, please contact Kathy Barzilla at kat102193@windstream.net.

### **Adult Christian Formation – Rev, Jeremy Bradley & Mr. Rob Hamon**

**Bible 101, Part I** - Bible study enriches our walk with Christ, and many of us have probably been involved with either a group or personal study in the past. This 6-week class was designed for both those who may be new to Bible study and those 'old hats' looking to restart their study habit. Multiple methods of bible study were presented, focusing on a few select methods that enjoy a more widespread use.

The 6 weeks comprised the following outline: Introduction and the Need for Prayer; the Basic Principles for Dynamic Bible Study with Reading Tips; a brief survey of several Different Study Methods with Thoughtful Guidelines; and a Devotional Study with applications. The last two (Chapter & Thematic) weeks were postponed until after Easter 2025 to allow for a Lenten course and a Winter Confirmation class.

**The Anglican Way: Walking in Love** - As a way to capitalize on the interest of who we are as Episcopalians and the need to have a confirmation class, the formation team decided to offer a class that worked for both needs. Using the good work of Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe from their book, *Walk in Love*, the class focused on Anglicanism and the rich history of who we are, moving to a deeper look at the sacraments and what is fundamental to our faith. We then moved toward looking at how we mark time with the different season in the church. After that we did a dive into basic beliefs from our creeds and catechism. We also examined the structure of the church and communion of the saints, followed by a discussion on the Trinity.

**Lenten series** - *Living Well Through Lent 2025: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. This is a formal publication from the Living Compass Organization and covered six lessons over as many weeks. The topics included: Cultivating Faithfulness; Cultivating Peace; Cultivating Joy; Cultivating Generosity; Cultivating Patience; during Holy Week: Walking the Way of Love; then Easter Sunday!

Each session covered the daily readings, relevant scripture review and offered questions for further consideration. Table discussions followed to further examine the fruits of the Spirit and how they enhance our experience of the kingdom of God on earth.

**Lenten Dinner series with Calvary Episcopal Church** - The parishes of Calvary and St. Mark's Episcopal churches met together in fellowship for 5 Wednesday nights during Lent. Following an evening repast of soup and salad, we enjoyed presentations by members of both churches to review and discuss examples of God's grace one can find in Victor Hugo's classic *Les Misérables*. The lessons were drawn from Matt Rawle's insightful 2019 book *The Grace of Les Misérables*.

The topics covered were: Grace Well Received; When Grace and Justice Collide; The Poor Are Always With You; The Gift of Love; Building the Barricade; and The Blessed Garden. Lively table discussions salted the evening with opportunities to better know each other as well, discussing the main points developed by the presenters.

**Bible 101, Part II**—As promised, we continued our ‘How to Study the Bible’ course following Confirmation, Lent and Easter. The last two class topics were a Chapter Study and a Thematic Study. Similar to the late 2024 class, each of these two study methods was practiced with appropriate Biblical text. For the first week, we examined Luke Chapter 15, and our last class theme was “What is a Disciple in the eyes of Jesus?”

**Pray Without Ceasing - An Examination of Prayer in Our Daily Lives** - One of the most important things we do as people of faith is pray. Yet, many feel uncomfortable with the very act of prayer. Our class took a look at various methods of pray, discussed why we pray and put into practice as a class praying the various prayers. It was an invigorating class that brought about new ideas of how we pray and eased the anxiety of praying.

**1700 Year Anniversary of the Nicene Creed** - We briefly visited the 5 most well-known creeds specific to the Christian faith, and focused specifically on the Nicene Creed during this, the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its crafting. We considered the Creed’s history, relevant authors and why it was thought an official statement of faith was needed. We used both the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer as our references, and each person was encouraged to add their voices to the discussions.

**Advent series** - Living Well Through Advent 2025: Practicing Generosity with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. The season of Advent provided a much-needed opportunity to slow down so we can make counter-cultural choices, choices that helped prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas. Our four-week Advent program consisted of daily readings out of the Living Compass book, from the first Sunday in Advent through the last. Each Sunday we reviewed the previous week’s readings and set the stage for subsequent offerings. The topics included: Grounding Our Generosity in God’s Generosity; Generosity and Gratitude; Generosity and Hospitality; and Love as the Foundation of Generous Living.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** - We began 2025 by finishing up our study of Samuel 2, which we began the previous fall. After, we dove into 1 and 2 Kings. We have concluded the remainder of the year reading the book, The Air We Breathe, by Glenn Scrivener, which has taken us into the new year. We have remained a consistent group of 6 to 7 folks present each week, with are total group numbering 10.

### **Altar Guild – Ms. Isobel Gotschall & Mrs. Michelle D’Antuono**

**Altar Guild Prayer** - Almighty God, grant, we beseech thee, that we may handle holy things with reverence, and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion that it may rise with acceptance before thee and obtain thy blessing: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mission Statement** - The mission of the Altar Guild is to bring men and women together for sharing gifts of fellowship, service, and to aid to clergy, deacons and bishops within the Diocese of Texas.

Altar Guild is a special lay organization of men and women, charged with the maintenance and preparation of the altar and its furnishings in a church. The altar guild may also supervise church decorations and flowers. The church rector or vicar appoints a leader and invites members to participate in the altar guild.

2025 was a busy year for the Altar Guild. We had wonderful seasons of Advent and Lent; from washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, and stripping the Altar on Good Friday, to an amazing Easter Service; and who can forget the Christmas morning service in our pajamas, just to mention a few. We continue to be blessed in preparing for numerous celebrations throughout the year. We look forward to the upcoming celebrations of our Church in 2026. A few of our members had to step away from Altar Guild

in 2025; we appreciate their dedication in the years that they served. However, we are very grateful to have two new members, Julie Stuckey and Tyler Townsend officially join the Altar Guild. We would love to have more members join our ministry.

**In Memory** - We were also blessed by several donations to the Altar Guild made in memory of our loving church family that we lost in 2025. We lift up: Delores Baldwin, Alysoun Marks and Fidelis Ojah. They are all deeply missed.

### **Kids' Kingdom - Chris Abbott**

Kids' Kingdom provided Christian Formation for students in the first through fifth grades during the spring 2025 term. The goal of Kids' Kingdom was to provide the youth with a Bible background presented in a unit format. A unit consisted of several weeks of a single Bible story that was reinforced with activities that the students found fun and interesting. The lessons plans were adapted and written by Chris Abbott from the *Workshop Rotation Model* website. Weekly communications via email and texts were sent to the students and their families.

**Spring 2025** - During the spring term lessons were completed on Jesus as a young boy, the baptism of Jesus, Jesus calling his disciples, Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, Jesus giving us a way to remember him through the sacrament of Communion and Peter's Denial. Preparing for Lent the students made "Alleluia Banners" to be stored away until Easter. Following Easter, the students completed suncatchers to remember Jesus had risen, a mural to walk in the footsteps and Jesus and St. Paul and created puppets to study St. Paul

Kathy Barzilla, Ruthie Hurta, Helen Tanner and Mary Anne Helms directed the classes on a weekly basis. Without their help to direct and satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God's Children, the Kids' Kingdom program could not have existed.

### **Christian Formation Grades 6-12 - Mrs. Chris Abbott**

Secondary Christian Formation served students in grades 6-12. The lessons are adapted by Chris Abbott from the *Real and Relevant* lectionary based curriculum endorsed by the Diocese of Texas. The goal of the secondary Christian Formation class is to provide the youth with a study of scripture that has direct applications to their daily lives. The lessons provide the youth with an opportunity to dig deeper into the scripture reading, God, Jesus and their faith. Movie clips as designated in the curriculum were often used to emphasize a point and bring current day issues to light following the scripture reading. Each week's class is concluded with a challenge for the students in their daily lives based on the lesson for the week ahead.

**Spring 2025** - In the spring of 2025 the focus of the lessons included Epiphany, free will, trust, qualities of a leader, baptism, Lent, temptations, faith, doubt, and belief. The spring term also gave the class the opportunity to follow the Lent Madness competition produced by the Forward Movement. Lent Madness gives everyone the opportunity to expand their knowledge of those individuals who have contributed so much to our faith. Sincere thanks go to Frank D'Antuono, Stacy Krajinovic and Isobel Gotschall for their service to this class.

**Fall 2025** - The focus of the fall term included commitment, confidence in God, helping others, giving, serving, thanking God, belief in God, not judging others, saints, prayer and depending on God. Chris Abbott taught the class and communicated with both the parents and youth via email and text to give everyone a preview of what to expect in that week's lesson. Additional thanks go to Stacy Krajinovic,

Kathy Barzilla and Frank D'Antuono for their participation to satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God's Children during the fall term. Their dedication to this program continue to make it possible.

**Lent Madness 2025** – St. Mark's as a whole and the youth in the 6-12 grade Christian Formation class again followed Lent Madness as promoted by The Forward Movement. A chart of the current nominees was updated in the parish hall each week. On Palm Sunday, a church wide vote was taken by the youth using the Final Four nominees. Lent Madness gives everyone the opportunity to expand their knowledge of those individuals who have contributed so much to our faith.

**Episcopal Relief and Development** – At the end of the youth Christian Formation year in May, a calf was purchased as a thank you to all those who had helped satisfy the requirements of Safeguarding God's Children in both the Kids' Kingdom class and the 6-12 grade class.

### **Daughters of the King (DOK) – Mrs. Kathy Barzilla**

Although we remain thankful for the technology of Zoom, there is nothing better than spending time together discussing service projects, having fellowship and praying together. Our meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month after worship.

Please contact Kathy Barzilla at kat102193@windstream.net if you are interested in more information. There is a discernment process and 12 short lessons to be completed; a new class must have 2 ladies minimum.

Our projects completed in 2025 were donating calendars to the residents at Greatwood Living Center, collecting non-perishable food items for the Souper Bowl of Caring, as well as praying on a daily basis for those who are in need of prayer. A new training class began in October 2025 and will end with a special installation sometime in Spring 2026.

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW) – Ms. Vickie Darsey**

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Committee of St Mark's Church, Richmond, TX planned and executed several events in 2025.

The first event was the Fireside Chat held on February 28, 2025 located at the onsite firepit at the church. Around 25 attended with several invited guests. We socialized enjoying snacks everyone brought to share. A great time was had by all.

This year was the first time the ECW was responsible for funeral foods and we organized for 3 funerals averaging 100-230 people.

The ECW provided soups and salads for the Lenten series for St Mark's and Calvary in March, sponsoring 2 of these events.

On March 21st, the ECW provided deserts for the fish fry.

May 16th, ECW had a luncheon at the Brookwood Community and went on a tour of the working community and gift shop there. Around 17 attended. Car pooling was available by members.

On December 14, the annual ECW Christmas party was held with ECW providing a ham and attendees proving the sides. We also had a fun with the white elephant gift exchange.

### **The Men of St. Mark's - Mr. Scott Marks**

During the 2025 calendar year the Men's group met monthly - 10 times. Average attendance at each meeting was 10 men.

Points of discussion during the year were:

1. Fellowship.
2. Continue in Formation with a different focus each month. Topics ranged from: Fishers of Men, The Exhortation as found in the BCP, The General and A General Thanksgiving prayers found in the BCP, Recognizing sacred moments, The two creation narratives found in Genesis, Lectio Divina on Daniel 3, Examine Two Way Prayer, a deep dive into the Baptismal Covenant, and finally exploring the hope that is Come – Adventus.
3. Assisting the Senior Warden and Junior Warden with small building maintenance projects.
4. Successfully organized two fish fries for the congregation and bring in \$3,099.00.
5. Successfully organized a pancake supper for the congregation and bring in \$615.00.

### **Music & Choir - Mr. Tom Thompson**

What a wonderful experience to be a part of the Music Ministry at St. Mark's! We are so blessed to have the fabulous members of St. Mark's Ensemble and St. Mark's Handbells who have been so faithful in helping to lead in worship on Sundays and other special days. The vocal ensemble continues to rehearse on Sunday afternoons, at 5:00 p.m., as well as on Sunday mornings, at 8:30 a.m. The handbell ensemble rehearses on Sundays, at 4:00 p.m.

The vocal ensemble had a very busy year with lots of worship services. Some of our favorites were Easter Sunday, when we had the brass instruments, along with handbells and choir; it was such a festive day. We really enjoyed getting to present *From Darkness to Light: A Service of Lessons & Carols* in December. That was a very special afternoon with guest musicians. We had a great time caroling and ringing bells for Greatwood at Sugar Land (retirement center), and we anticipate growing our relationship with them, as well as other assisted-living communities in our area. The year ended with a memorable Christmas Eve concert presented by Dr. Dominique McCormick, with other guest musicians.

It is my hope for the new year that we will continue to grow and use our collective talents and resources to produce quality worship experiences for our congregation and community. We greatly appreciate your love, encouragement, and support, and we covet your prayers as we continue to grow and do wonderful work for God's kingdom.

### **Sewing Guild - Mrs. Jeanne Reaves**

In 2025 the Sewing Sisters of St. Mark's Episcopal Church made pillow cases and toddler blankets to give to the Fort Bend Women's Shelter and Fort Bend Family Promise. The Sisters also donated pillow cases to Rev. Michael Paul's school in the South Sudan. The Sewing Sisters also delivered dog pillows to the Fort Bend Animal Shelter. There was also a lesson in making yo-yo's for Christmas gifts for the St. Mark's Christmas giving tree children.

### **Outreach Ministry - Mrs. Mary Anne Helms**

Over the course of 2025 St. Mark's had an active Outreach program. In January we collected calendars for Greatwood which were warmly received. In February we participated in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring and were able to donate non-perishable food to Helping Hands. We had about 10-12 parishioners who volunteered with food distribution on two separate Saturdays with Helping Hands.

We collected snack items and created snack bags for Lord of the Streets to distribute to homeless in downtown Houston. We fed 3-4 families with Fort Bend Family Promise dinner for an entire week. We initiated a partnership with Bowie Elementary School in Rosenberg where we were able to donate specific school supplies that the school needed. 5-6 of us were able to greet students on their first day of school enthusiastically with other community members making sure they felt loved and supported on their first day back. We donated K-cups for the teacher's lounge. Several church members worked with Bowie's librarian to register books in their system. We provided lunch to all staff in October on their Fall Festival day, which is a long day for staff. In December, we put together treat bags with messages from you that we delivered to the teachers individually during the school day. Our relationship with Bowie has just started and we have exciting plans for the future! In October, we collected dog and cat food to donate to Rosenberg Animal Shelter to feed stray and abandoned animals looking for new, loving homes. And finally, in December, we were able to once again work with the Department of Family and Protective Services' Rainbow Room to provide 3 gifts for each child that we adopted. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, no child we adopted when without.

St. Mark's is blessed by each of you who participate in these outreach activities, whether it is by financial or in-kind donations, volunteering your time or talent, or helping organize these events. "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'" Matthew 25:34-36

**St. Mark's Giving Tree** - This year, St. Mark's Episcopal Church sponsored 25 children who were referred through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as children in need. This department services foster children from infants to age 18. For most of these children, the gifts from the Rainbow Room Christmas Giving Tree Project are the only ones they receive all year.

Because of the generosity of the members of St. Mark's, and the Kintess School, we were able to provide three requested gifts per child totaling 75 gifts in just 6 weeks and seven of those gifts were bicycles. So....A huge "Thank You" to all of you who put a smile on the face of these children on Christmas morning. Also Thank you to Isobel Gotschall for helping with the tree and sorting presents and to Melissa Hamon and Bob Yamauchi for their help with delivering these gifts.

**Miracle on Morton Street** - St. Mark's participated Richmond's Miracle on Morton Street for the third year, as an outreach to the community and an opportunity for evangelism. A group of 20 members from St. Mark's set up and took down the tent and supplies, passed out free bottles of water, Christmas ornament crafts for the children, and had a gift basket giveaway to those who stopped by the booth to register. The team interacting with folks and passed out information about St. Mark's and our upcoming Advent and Christmas services. We had a new family join our church after the invitation to come to church at the event, a joyful treat! Thanks to all who volunteered to make this event happen!

**Blessing of the Animals** - On October 5, 2025, St. Mark's Episcopal Church hosted the second annual Blessing of the Animals event in rather warm weather beginning at 4:00 p.m. Rev. Jeremy led a beautiful blessing service, including music led by Kate Wasserman. The service ended with each attending pet receiving a personal blessing. Several attending community partners brought pictures of their pets so they could join the blessing as well.

Nine community partners provided a variety of pet care items and information, including sample pet food and treats, pet nutrition education, pet adoptions, pet rescue support, and other information on

pet care. Several St. Mark's members hosted a welcome table with church event information, and a lucky visitor won the raffle basket filled with donations from our community partners.

To help support the Rosenberg Animal Shelter, St. Mark's members donated 18 bags of dog food, 8 bags of cat food, a pet carrier, 2 blankets, and 5 pet beds made by our own Sewing Sisters.

Community Partners included: Richmond Fire Department, Richmond Police Department, Brazos Bend State Park, Rosenberg Animal Shelter, Pet Evolution Pet Store, Hollywood Feed Pet Store, Woof Gang Pet Store, PetSuites and the Veterinary Emergency Group.

A Rainbow Bridge was well received by visitors as they wrote their departed pets' names on colorful rocks to place on the bridge. The bridge is located in one of the flower beds near the front of the church, so members can continue to recognize their lost fur babies.

Twenty-four church members and community volunteers led the event. A total of 67 humans and 28 pets and animals were in attendance. Pets and animals included 22 dogs, 3 cats, and 3 alligator hatchlings.

**Trunk-Or-Treat** - For the first time, our Trunk-or-Treat was moved inside due to the potential of rain. After the quick thinking from our volunteers and staff, we had an extraordinary event in collaboration between our Church and The Kintess School. The successful event brought nearly 350 people to enjoy the amazing "trunks" with great candy, and were so creatively decorated by many of our parishioners as well as The Kintess School and community partners. We had over 15 trunks this year, which was a tremendous turn out. There were prizes given out for best costumes for all age groups. The families that visited our event also enjoyed popcorn and cotton candy. The kids enjoyed lots of games, including a cake walk and face painting. We also had "Pirates Chaplain" appear as our host for the event. The 2025 Trunk or Treat was a big success thanks in part to many volunteers. Please consider helping out with our 2026 Trunk or Treat! You don't want to miss the fun!!

**Souper Bowl of Caring** - The St. Mark's Daughters of the King again coordinated the St. Mark's participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Donations of canned and dried food were collected prior to Super Bowl Sunday. Monetary collections were also made. Contributions were delivered to the Helping Hands location in Richmond.

**Calendar/Planners/Date Book Collection** - Again in 2025 the members of St. Mark's donated calendars, planners and date books that were then given to the Greatwood senior living facility.

**St. Mark's Saints for a Cure** - 2025 was the fourteenth year that St. Mark's has fielded a team for the annual Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk under the direction of Chris Abbott. JDRF recently underwent a name change to Breakthrough T1D, but the goal remains the same. This year's walk took place on Saturday, November 1 at the Houston Sports Park. Forty-one individuals and families contributed \$4,411 this year and in the fourteen years the St. Mark's total contribution has exceeded \$47,000. These funds go to Breakthrough T1D for their ongoing research into a cure and development of better ways to deal with Type One Diabetes on a daily basis.

### **Sunday Food Ministry - Ms. Isobel Gotschall**

The hospitality members had a very busy year. We provided snacks and drinks for after church socializing. Each week, a team of two people prepare food for all parishioners. We have 24 members that comprise of 12 teams. The variety of treats prepared is varied and delicious. We are pleased to

announce that we have 2 new members -Tess Foster and Lillian Gray. We feel that all hospitality works are providing a needed service to our community .

### **Welcome/Evangelism - Mrs. Melissa Hamon**

Throughout 2025, our church experienced growth in both membership and community engagement. We welcomed new families and individuals, leading to an increase in attendance at weekly services and events. Over 20 individuals and families committed to St. Mark's in 2025.

As we look to 2026, we should focus on inviting friends to come to St. Mark's and share in all the good things that are happening here. A great place to start would be the Pancake Supper on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Whenever we have an event or celebration, think about someone that might enjoy the event and the fellowship that they would experience. We know how wonderful our church family is and think about how wonderful it would be if your friends could experience that same feeling.

### **Historian Ministry - Mrs. Rhonda Yamauchi**

The "History of St. Mark's" began in 2024 starting with a lot of sorting and reading. All the archival material was sorted by year and then by date and eventually they were put into binders for safekeeping for the years 1955-2024 as well as digitally scanned. The materials that were too large for a binder were placed in an archival box. The basic information about St. Mark's was presented to the church on St. Mark's day in 2025 but more information about the church is currently being collected and will be added to what has already been written. Beginning in 2025, all information will be stored digitally on a USB.

### **Family History Ministry- Mrs. Rhonda Yamauchi**

The Family History Ministry was created in 2025 and since then, two family histories were completed for two St. Mark's parishioners and one more is currently in the works. A total of \$2,190.00 has been generated for the church from this ministry.

*Give thanks for the many members of our body*

**Vestry (2025)**

Mary Anne Helms (Sr Warden)  
Melissa Hamon (Jr Warden)  
Chris Abbott  
Nancy Boyd  
Frank D'Antuono  
Jim Duke  
Rock Moen  
Nancy Brown

**Executive Admin. Assistant**

Kimberly Hart

**Organist**

Tom Thompson

**Treasurer**

Rock Moen

**Sexton**

Reuben Luna

**Kintess School Liaison**

Nancy Brown

**Stewardship Team**

Mary Anne Helms—Chair  
Rock Moen  
Jeremy  
Kay  
Faith Fidelis-Ojah

**Finance Committee**

Rock Moen - Co-Chair  
Sandy Barkerding  
Frank D'Antuono - Co-Chair  
Faith Fidelis-Ojah  
Curtis Boyd  
Kathy Barzilla  
Hal Bambach

**Funeral Guild**

Alysoun Marks  
Michelle D'Antuono  
Vickie Darsey  
Kimberly Hart  
Isobel Gotschall

**Choir**

Kemi Ani  
Roger Barkerding  
Sandy Barkerding  
Kirk Dixon  
Faith Fidelis-Ojah  
Kathleen Mensing  
Jeanne Reaves  
Julie Stuckey  
Brent Thompson

**Handbells**

Paula Brown  
Jim Duke  
Mary Anne Helms  
Sue Lane McCulley  
Suzanne Mottin  
LJ Simicek  
Julie Stuckey  
Brent Thompson

**Chalice Bearers**

Kathy Barzilla  
Sady Barkerding  
Melissa Hamon  
Alysoun Marks  
Christine Powell  
Mellie Simicek  
Tyler Townsend  
Addison Powell

**Altar Guild**

Isobel Gotschall  
Michelle D'Antuono  
Cathy Baumbach  
Anne Brock  
Ruthie Hurta  
Sue Lane McCulley  
Helen Tanner  
Tom Thompson  
Kathleen Mensing  
Julie Stuckey  
Tyler Towsend

**Wedding Guild**

TBD

**Lay Readers**

Kathy Barzilla  
Sandra Barkerding  
Nancy Boyd  
Jim Duke  
Rob Hamon  
Mary Anne Helms  
Adriana Krajinovic  
Stacy Krajinovic  
Jim Osoba  
Brent Thompson  
Kirk Dixon  
Mellie Simicek

**Ushers**

Nancy Boyd  
Curtis Boyd  
Kyle Helms  
Charlie Phillips  
Don Jozwiak  
Marion Jozwiak  
Marko Krajinovic  
Rock Moen  
Jim Osoba  
LJ Simicek  
Alysoun Marks  
Scott Marks  
Thomas McCloud

**Tellers**

Chris Abbott  
Mary Anne Helms  
Nancy Brown  
Nancy Boyd  
Melissa Hamon  
Frank D'Antuono

**Adult Formation**

Rev. Jeremy Bradley  
Alysoun Marks  
Rob Hamon  
Cathy Baumbach

**ECW Chairs**

Vickie Darsey

**Men's Ministry**

Scott Marks

*Give thanks for the many members of our body*

**The Sewing Guild**

Jeanne Reaves  
Rhonda Yamauchi  
Betty Von Maszewski  
Isobel Gotschall  
Gail Scholer  
Phoebe Rogers  
Helen Tanner  
Anne Brock  
Cathy Baumbach  
Tona Henson

**Daughters of the King**

Chris Abbott  
Kathy Barzilla  
Anne Brock  
Nancy Brown  
Nancy Boyd  
Debbie Burns  
Joni Duke  
Faith Fidelis-Ojah  
Isobel Gotschall  
Melissa Hamon  
Alysoun Marks  
Jeanne Reaves  
Barbara Scheibner  
Marion Jozwiak

**Youth Formation**

Chris Abbott  
Frank D'Antuono  
Kathy Barzilla  
Isobel Gotschall  
Stacy Krajcinovic

**Kids' Kingdom**

Chris Abbott  
Mary Anne Helms  
Kathy Barzilla  
Helen Tanner  
Ruthie Hurta

**Outreach Ministry**

Mary Anne Helms

**Historian Ministry**

Rhonda Yamauchi

**Hosting Ministry**

Anne Brock  
Nancy Brown  
Kay Cangolosi  
Shan Harris  
Isobel Gotschall  
Sue Lane McCulley  
Alysoun Marks  
Chris Abbott  
Don Jozwiak  
Marion Jozwiak  
Kathy Barzilla  
Debbie Haley  
Michelle D'Antuono  
Frank D'Antuono  
Grey Baldwin  
Helen Tanner  
Cathy Baumbach  
Elisa Hughes  
Vickie Darsey  
Sandra Barkerding  
Ruthie Hurta  
Jeanne Reaves  
Tess Foster  
Lillian Green-Gray

**Site Base Planning Committee**

Rev. Jeremy Bradley  
Paula Brown  
Michelle D'Antuono  
Melissa Hamon  
Mary Anne Helms  
Lee Leaman  
Scott Marks  
Rock Moen

**Family History Ministry**

Rhonda Yamauchi

**Building Committee**

Kimberly Hart  
Melissa Hamon  
Jim Osoba  
Schott Marks  
Mary Anne Helms  
Dwyane Dawlearn  
Rev. Jermery Bradley

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

**7615 FM 762**

**Richmond, TX 77469**

**(281) 545-1661**

**[www.stmarksfortbend.org](http://www.stmarksfortbend.org)**

### ***Mission Statement***

Our mission is to know Jesus Christ and to make him known.

### ***Vision Statement***

We at St. Mark's Episcopal Church have a vision for our future. We will nurture strong caring relationships within our church family and work together to meet the needs of our neighbors through outreach. We will commit to meaningful worship experiences with a vibrant music component. We will prepare for growth by developing a campus plan which utilizes our unique, beautiful campus space. We will devote ourselves to Christian formation at all ages and will create a thriving youth ministry. And we will implement an effective overall strategy for achieving our mission of knowing Christ and making him known.

### ***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.