

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

September 2, 2021

Upcoming Events

Children's Sunday School

Sun, 9/5 11:30 a.m.

Labor Day

Mon, 9/6--Office will be Closed

Parish Profile Workshop

Sun, 10/10 11:30 a.m.

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Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m.--Morning Prayer-Sanctuary

[Visit our website](#)



An Excerpt from "Prayers and Promises for a Hurting World"

by Laura Freudig

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

James 1:19

Dear Savior and Friend, voices are everywhere in the world, all the time; silence is rare. We're encouraged to speak up, speak out, speak our mind, say our piece, tell all, express ourselves, let 'em have it. We decide to mow down our opponents with our wit and eloquence, to leave them with their jaws hanging down while the watching world applauds. People who refrain from passing judgment or say, "I don't know," people who don't have a comeback at the ready, are looked down on.

But You say differently, Lord. You were silent before Your accusers, and when You did speak, Your words called weary people to repentance and rest. Your sinless perfection included Your tongue! Help me choke back words that would wound. Help me not say or write the pithy comments I so desire to utter. Help me not talk just to hear my own voice. Help me, instead, speak words of life and love. Help me know when to speak and when to be silent. I know sometimes the most necessary words are no words at all. Let me be a listening ear, a hand that holds and comforts, a shoulder that offers support. I ask, Lord, that if I must speak, You will speak through me. Amen.

**Trust God, be faithful, pray,
and let Him have His way.**

Moving Forward

Warden's Corner with Jon Reily

This week I wanted to give you an update on our progress with the search for our new Rector. As we said at the beginning, this is a slow process, but I also want to share all I can as soon as I can, so we can all be a part of it.

Over the last five weeks since Father John's retirement, we have been very lucky to have guest priests officiate for us; Archdeacon Besson, Rev. Frank Fuller, and Rev. Betty Fuller have been so kind to share their time and teaching with us, and I would like to take a moment for us all to say a prayer of thanks for all of them. We are a little like sheep without a shepherd right now, and any guidance we can get in these transition times to keep us on the path is most welcome.



Earlier this week I learned from Archdeacon Besson that the diocese is still in conversation with clergy about serving as our interim Rector. There's nothing wrong with that. These things take time, and as I said to the Archdeacon in response, "it is so important that we get the 'right person' versus the 'right now' person, so we will continue to be patient". I'm sure many of you are eager to move to this new step, and I share that feeling, but it is also important to me that we get someone who will be a good fit for us during this transition time. Anyone can use a stick to move the sheep, but it takes the right person to guide with love instead.

With that in mind, I have asked Rev. Betty to serve us through the end of September, and she has graciously accepted. We will have Morning Prayer this coming Sunday the 5th and the first Sunday of October. Archdeacon Besson will be back with us October 10 to officiate that service. This will carry us through the next six weeks, by which time I hope we will know who our interim will be and be able to celebrate his or her arrival. If we do not for some reason, rest assured that we will make arrangements to ensure that we have an officiant to lead our worship for as long as it takes.

When Archdeacon Besson is here October 10th, he will also lead us in the parish profile workshop right after the service. We'll have lunch and then get right to work. We want as many of you involved as possible, so please mark this date on your calendar because it's really an important part of our journey forward.

Thank you all so much for your patience and kind words, as we move through this process. It's new to all of us. I recently said that I felt like we were "working without a net here" and then was reminded that God always has a net for us.

I'm still learning too.

More soon!
Yours in service,
Jon

**Please keep the search process, the vestry and leaders of
the church, members of the search committee, the interim, and
our future rector in your prayers!**

Thank You Note

Thanks from the Hardies

Dear Friends, One and All,

A month has come and gone since the wonderful Celebration of Ministry Dinner on July 31st. August sped by with one trip to visit friends in Florida and another to visit Bethany and Christopher in Dallas, as well as Dr. Bob Eckert in Athens.

Though I still visit a few senior living centers to offer Bible Study, prayer, and singing, I am enjoying the flow of a week that is less compressed with appointments than I am accustomed to. Every week has been blessed with lunch with a friend or a domestic task finally accomplished.



This week, I received a most generous financial gift from the church that is from many of you. Melanie and I are moved with gratitude and humbled by your desire to bless us, as if the Celebration Dinner was not enough.

If you wonder if you have blessed us, the answer is Yes! Whether your particular contribution was large or small, I want you to know that you have proven your sincere appreciation of our ministry with you. We love you, pray for you, and believe that the Lord who has begun a good work in you will see it through.

Let me encourage you to keep manifesting such love and gratitude by coming daily to Him who is Love through His Word, open to His Spirit. And by all means, St. Mark's, worship every week! Don't let any sorrow or impatience discourage the community of saints that is your spiritual home. Continue to bless it, as you have blessed me.

With faith and affection,
John+

Kids in Christ Ministry

Plans for the Fall

Kids in Christ will begin meeting weekly again starting **THIS** Sunday, September 5 after the service. Children ages three years old through 5th grade are encouraged to have a quick snack and then head to the children's area for Bible stories, songs, crafts, and games. We'll finish by 12:00 p.m.

"God is Almighty." It's true, but what does it really mean? Join us every Sunday in September to find out. We'll start by reading about a prophet who thought he could run away from God. You won't believe where he ended up! It's a whale of a tale!



Job Search:

Wanted: One or two directors for the always fabulous St. Mark's Christmas pageant. Lots of help and advice provided by past directors! Payment in hugs and blessings. Date for pageant 2021 is either December 12 or 19. Come get involved and share your gifts!

If you have a love of children and would like to help Molly, please contact her at (214) 762-8792. She would certainly welcome the assistance.

Ministry Highlight

I Love My Church How Can I Serve?

Did you know that we have over twenty ministries you could be involved in? Most take place on Sunday mornings, but there are some that occur during the week. All the ministry teams are open to those who are eager to serve God through one or more of these ministries.



We will highlight three ministries to help you decide where you would like to serve God through St. Mark's. This week features the Acolyte Ministry, Children/Youth Ministry, and Holy Locusts Ministry. If you are interested in joining a team, you may sign up on the back of the Connection Card that will be in your bulletins this Sunday or use the contact info listed below.

Acolyte Ministry Team

Michelle Markert oversees the Acolyte Ministry Team. A training for new acolytes will be scheduled when we have our interim rector in place. Acolytes are usually children and youth ten years old and up, but adults may serve as well. They assist the priest with the service, process with the cross to open and close the service, and help with Children's Chapel. Please contact Michelle at (361) 774-6086, or the church office at (361) 994-0285, or judy@stmarkscc.org if you're interested.

Children/Youth Ministry Team

Molly Wandel oversees Children's Chapel, Kids in Christ, and SEEK Youth Group. Children's Chapel gathers in the fellowship hall during the Sunday worship service for a service on the kids' level. Kids in Christ meet after the Sunday service in the fellowship hall for Sunday School. SEEK Youth Group is for youth in the 6th-12th grade. They meet in the fellowship hall Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. Please contact Molly at (214) 762-8792, or the church office at (361) 994-0285, or judy@stmarkscc.org if this ministry appeals to you.

Holy Locust Ministry Team

Mal Nesloney oversees our Holy Locust Ministry Team, which is a group of dedicated folks who maintain the beauty of our campus. Ideally, teams serve once a month to cut the grass, use the weedeater, edge the sidewalks, and blow away debris. If you like working with power equipment, this is the ministry for you. Please contact Mal at (361) 945-8513, or the church office at (361) 994-0285, or judy@stmarkscc.org for more information.

Altar Flowers

Available Dates

Each week a flower arrangement adorns our altar to bring more beauty into our sanctuary. Parishioners have the opportunity to sponsor the altar flowers for a specific Sunday. It's a wonderful way to honor a special event in your life or someone who means a great deal to you.

We have three dates still available for this year:
October 10th
November 14th
November 21st



If you would like to sponsor the flowers on one of these dates, either sign up on the flower chart in the entryway to the sanctuary or email Judy at judy@stmarksgc.org. A notification will be sent out prior to your given Sunday to request how you would like your dedication in the bulletin to read. The floral arrangements cost \$55.

Online Giving

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Is the Lord blessing you? Are you grateful for what He has done in your life? Remember His Church. Though we have experienced limitations for worshiping together, we still have ministries to support and salaries and bills to pay. Give out of faith, thanksgiving, and generosity, and never out of guilt. If you are blessed to be able to give, here are the four ways to do that:

- Online through our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on that and it will take you to our online EGiving page. You will need to set up a user profile, and then you can set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts. You can also give through the ["Donate to St. Mark's"](#) link.
- Through your cell phone using our app, Give+Plus. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Give+Plus". The icon background is white, the word "Give" is gray and the "+Plus" is a mustard color. Download the app and follow the prompts. You can use it to set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts.
- Mail in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. We have a drop-in mailbox that is locked at all times. We will be checking the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Drop your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to the left of the red door at the fellowship hall.



**THANK YOU for helping spread the Kingdom
through your continuing support
of St. Mark's Church.**

Weekly Calendar

Calendar & Ministry Schedule

Here is the [link](#) to the September schedule for our ministries, which is still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

September 5 - Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer--Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. - Kids in Christ Sunday School--Kids in Christ Area in Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. - SEEK Youth Group--Fellowship Hall

September 6 - Monday--Labor Day

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

September 7 - Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall

6:30- p.m. - Men's Cursillo Reunion Group--Nolan's on Staples near Yorktown

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

September 8 - Wednesday

12:00 p.m. - Wednesday Noon Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall

Helpful Links

Below you will find several links to websites or Facebook Pages that you might find helpful.

[St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#)

[Donate to St. Mark's Church](#)

[St. Mark's Church Facebook Page](#)

[Diocese of West Texas](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter and Reflection Magazine](#)

[Denison Forum--News Discerned Differently](#)

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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