

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

January 13, 2022

Upcoming Events.

Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build

1/15 Sat, 8:00 a.m.

Vestry Meeting

1/16 Mon, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting Potluck

1/30 Sun, 11:30 a.m.

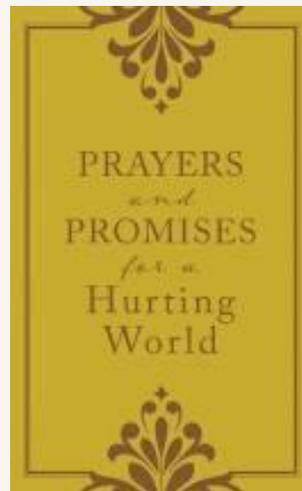
In This Issue

God's Promises
Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build
Baptism Sunday
Warden's Corner
Search Process
Youth & Children's Ministry
Annual Parish Meeting
New Women's Group
Flowers
Giving Opportunities
Weekly Calendar & Schedule
Helpful Links

Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m.--Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary

[Visit our website](#)



An excerpt taken from
"Prayer and Promises for
a Hurting World,"
a devotional by Laura Freudig.

*"Turn away from evil and do good.
Search for peace, and work to
maintain it. The eyes of the Lord
watch over those who do right; his ears
are open to their cries for help."
Psalm 34:14-15*

Dear Father, You are the God of the past, present, *and* future. You hold everything in Your universe-sized hands, and nothing will surprise You. Nothing disturbs Your peace, perfectionism and purpose. We praise You for this aspect of Your divine nature, because time and again we worry and waver. Forgive us for being afraid of the future, for attempting to reject it because it might not be what we want or imagine. You are here, *now*, in this larger, emptier, global world that never sleeps or shuts up.

You are tirelessly aware of everything that goes on--on every device, in every chat room, in every news feed. You know about the cyber threats and bullies, the computer viruses, the scammers, and those who want to steal our identities. We crave Your peace; we beg You to

show us what pursuing Your peace really looks like, because resting in You doesn't negate the fact that sometimes we need to *act*. Sometimes we need to rock the boat, disturb the complacency of others, speak hard words into unwilling ears, unplug. Lord, this is so hard to navigate. We put ourselves in Your hands. We pray for wisdom. We pray for peace. We just pray. Amen.

**Seek God! Pray!
Give it ALL to Him!**

Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build

**Saturday, 1/15, beginning at 8:00 a.m.
1530 Madrid**

This month's wheelchair ramp build is for Raul, who is 63 years old. The ramp will make life a little simpler for his mother who is 83 years old and currently his caregiver. They have a ramp, but it is quite dangerous because it is narrow and steep. The Access Plus team will be able to build a new ramp that will take care of that problem.

Please consider being a part of the ramp build on the 15th!



Baptism Sunday

Come Celebrate Cason's Baptism

A Sunday when we participate in a baptism is always wonderful. This Sunday is just such a Sunday. Cason Wright, Jeff and Gaby's son, will be baptized during our worship service.

An enlarged copy of his baptismal certificate will be on the black cabinet of the entrance to the sanctuary for you to sign to show that you'll support Cason in his faith journey.



There will be a reception immediately after the service in the fellowship hall. Please make plans to come help celebrate this very special event in Cason's life.

Warden's Corner

Opportunity to Serve

"I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death." --Leonardo da Vinci

"NEED HELP THIS SUNDAY!"-Judy

"But can't someone else do it?"-Us

How many times have we all said this, or at least thought it? Now I know that we're all busy. I get it. Trust me, I get it. But that doesn't mean we should just stand by in the comfort and security of our schedules.

Every week we see this email subject in our boxes, and yet virtually every Sunday the same people are doing the same jobs. Poor Judy and those same people are left trying to proverbially turn loaves into fishes so we can all continue to worship and have fellowship in the style to which we've become accustomed. What we need, speaking frankly, is more stewardship. Not in the traditional sense of writing a check (that's fine too), but in that, as members of St. Mark's, we are ALL stewards of the parish, not just the same 15 people who do things week in and week out.

In the New Testament, Jesus talks more about stewardship, finances, and management of our lives than anything else outside the love of God. That's very telling to me, because it shows that caring for and loving your fellow man and woman is as important as ANYTHING, save our love of God.

So this week I ask you all to ask yourselves, "How can I help?". It doesn't take much effort, but a little goes a long way in all things, and much like traditional stewardship and finances, compounds upon itself when it's deposited.

Have a great week, everyone! See you on Sunday.

Yours in service,
Jon



Search Process

Links for Search Process Resources

Here is this week's scripture to study, pray through, and allow the Holy Spirit to work into your heart.



Scripture for the week: 1 Peter 1:3-11

Jesus the Great High Priest

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward."

Here is a list of useful links to use during the search process for our new rector:

Parish Profile on Mark's [website](#),

Diocese of West Texas website [churches in transition](#)

Prayers during the search process: [prayers](#)

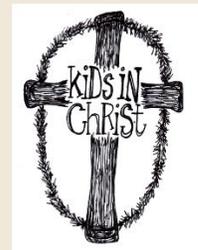
Youth and Children's Ministry



SEEK Youth Group and Kids in Christ

Kids in Christ

Thank you to Mr. John for building a fire so we could enjoy s'mores after church last week. They were yummy!!!



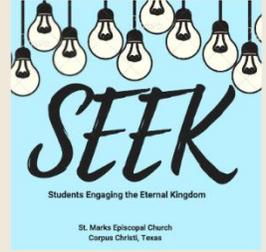
After our snack, we had a short lesson where we learned "s'more" about baptism and being marked as Christ's own forever. We are so excited for our friend Cason's baptism this Sunday and can't wait to welcome him into God's family!

Coming up in KIC

Did you know that Jesus was once a child too? He learned the scriptures and talked with temple priests. He took time to learn about his Heavenly Father and prepare for his adult ministry. Over the next 6 weeks, we'll discover how we can grow closer to God and be prepared for his plans for us too!



SEEK Youth Group



Youth group started with cookies and fruit with hazelnut spread (Thank you, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Thomas!) Kathleen

shared with us what it's been like finding a new faith community in college. We read the beginning of Mark 7 and discussed the idea that what the Bible has to say is more important than any traditions we may value. (We noticed that Jesus placed a high value on scripture, as evidenced by how often he quoted it!) After some wonderful prayer time, we finished up our hour with a chaotic but fun game of Deer Pong.

We meet every Sunday from 4-5 p.m. in the fellowship hall and would love for anyone 6th-12th grade to join us. Friends are always invited!



Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 30th

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 30th immediately after our worship service. We'll eat lunch while a photo roller of the year 2021 plays. Then we'll move right into the nuts and bolts of the meeting. We'll hear about ministry highlights from 2021, look at how the year ended financially, vote for two new vestry members, review the 2022 budget, and dream about our future.

The lunch will be an Italian themed potluck. So, start thinking about your favorite recipes as you decide what you'll want to bring. You can sign up on the back of the Connection Card during the service this Sunday. During the meeting, Molly will have activities for the children, while Stephanie hangs out with our little ones.

Please mark your calendar for this very important meeting and make every effort to be there.



New Women's Group

Change for Women's Group Tuesdays 6:00 p.m.

Calling all women! A new group for ladies started this past Tuesday. They will share their lives, hold each other accountable, and pray for one another. If this sounds appealing to you, join them next Tuesday at Jason's Deli on Airline Road in the Gulfway Shopping Center at 6:00 p.m.



The meeting will begin with dinner, so order your food as soon as you get there, then go look for familiar St. Mark's faces.

For more information, contact Lori Jones at (361) 903-5060 or Judy at (361) 994-0285 in the church office.

Flowers

Flower Chart for 2022

Sponsoring the altar flowers on a Sunday is a great way to honor a special someone or event in your life, as well as add more beauty to our altar. Each year a flower chart is available for people to sign up on for a particular Sunday. The flower chart for 2022 is currently available in the entryway to the sanctuary.



After you sign up, an email will be sent out at the beginning of the month of the date that you requested. You will be asked how you would like the dedication on the back of the bulletin to read and whether you want to take the flowers after the Sunday service or have them donated. The cost is \$55.

Thank you to those who have signed up to sponsor the flowers during 2022. Here are the dates that are still available:

April 17
May 8
May 15
July 17
Aug 21
Oct 16
Nov 20

You may also indicate a date you would like to sponsor by either calling Judy in the church office at (361) 994-0285 next week or emailing her at judy@stmarksgcc.org.

Ways to Support God's Kingdom through St. Mark's

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.
- **NEW APP**----Through your cell phone using the app, Vanco Mobile. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Vanco Mobile". The icon background is dark purple with a white circle and a purple letter "V" in the center. 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 check 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 doors 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 January schedule for our ministries, which is still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

January 15 - Saturday

8:00 a.m. - Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build--1530 Madrid

January 16 - Sunday--HOLY BAPTISM

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. - Kid's in Christ--Fellowship Hall

-Baptism Reception--Fellowship Hall

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

January 17 - Monday

6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Fellowship Hall

January 18 - Tuesday

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

6:00 p.m. - Women's Group--Jason's Deli, 1416 Airline Rd.

6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staples St.

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

January 19 - Wednesday

12:00 p.m. - 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
2727 Airline Rd
(361) 994-0285
www.stmarksec.org



Subscribe to our Enews