

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

July 22, 2022

Upcoming Events

Happening Retreat
8/5-7 Fri-Sun

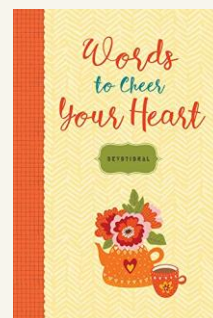
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Sunday Worship Service:
10:00 a.m.--Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary

[Visit our website](#)

God's Promises



Excerpt from **Words to Cheer Your Heart** by Ellie Claire

"I am the Alpha and the Omega--the beginning and the end, says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come--the Almighty One."
Revelation 1:8

God lives in the *and*. He's the beginning *and* the end. Jesus is fully God *and* fully man. He is justice *and* mercy. Grace *and* truth. Completely powerful *and* completely gentle.

Humans are uncomfortable in the *and*. We don't know how to live in the present and the future at the same time. We struggle with knowing we are perfect in Christ while we still experience human failure.

When it comes to trials, the *and* is tricky business. Jesus wept. Paul says rejoice always. David says to pour our complaints before God one minute and the next he says he will continually speak God's praises.

Real-life struggles require time to grieve, but in our need for real emotion it's easy to forget the *and*. When we do, life's struggles are harder to bear.

Thankfully we are children of the God of the *and*. Our is not all or nothing thinking.

The trial is hard *and* God is good. Money is short *and* we have a warm coat. That relationship is strained *and* this relationship is a blessing. Today there are problems *and* for eternity there is joy.

It is possible to cry *and* laugh in the same hour.

Rejoicing in the *and* gives unlimited access to the good in life.

Lord, today I rejoice in the *and*, remembering that there is more to my life than the problems I face. I celebrate each good gift in gratitude to You, the gift-giver. Amen.

The Warden's Corner

A Note from Jon

One of the things that makes or breaks any relationship is good, honest communication. Sometimes it's hard, sometimes not, but not being truthful and forthright is typically not going to end well. I work very hard in my life to follow this advice, and Erika and I have a saying in our home, "talking about the thing", which helps. "Talking about the thing" means that no matter how hard a topic is, it has to be discussed. This has always proven to be the best advice.



With this in mind, I need to talk to all of you about "the thing"; and no, it's not about *that*.

St. Markans, Diocesan Council is six months away, and the planning process for it is kicking off next week. I have asked a few times now over the last few months for volunteers to come forward, but sadly, other than Chrystal Wilkey, it's a very empty roster. Our partner churches are ready to go, but we are still waiting for our team.

So, "talking about the thing", please help! You don't have to do it all. There will be a lot of help from other St. Markans and the diocese, but we desperately need YOUR help in any way that you can provide it. Please pray and consider this: St. Mark's needs you.

Okay, now that wasn't so bad, was it? On to other business, which is about *that*.

I addressed the congregation a few Sundays ago about a sad topic. There have been more developments since then, but the original information is still valid, and I wanted to share it here for those who were not in attendance that day. There are details which I have briefed the Vestry and the Bishop on that I have deemed confidential and will not discuss, but in the interests of transparency and disclosure I will share the specifics to the best of my ability. No secrets.

In the first week of July I notified Fr. John in person and by mail that he needed not to be at St. Mark's or the King's Forest for a period of 18 months. I took this action at the diocese's recommendation after repeated requests to Fr. John to withdraw from the King's Forest were ignored. I had asked him to step away from the King's Forest to allow us to look to the future as a parish with our new rector. We love Fr. John, but the time has come for us to walk separate paths. He has said that he will respect our wishes, and I consider the matter now closed.

The Friends of the King's Forest corporation is in the process of being dissolved, and all monies, as well as the responsibility for the care and feeding of the property, have been returned to the church. At my request the Junior Warden is soliciting bids from companies to care for the property, and we are also exploring a partnership with Good Samaritan for some of the work. The King's Forest will continue to be loved and cared for as it always has been.

This has not been easy for anyone, and I am very sorry for any hurt my decisions have caused, but in life sometimes hard decisions have to be made. It didn't have to be like this, but because it was like this, I took firm action to protect the church.

Please pray for Fr. John, who is currently on a mission trip to Uganda, to be safe and healthy and return home safely; and please pray for all the Hardies, our friends, for their peace.

The time is near for the third chapter of St. Mark's epic story to begin. In order for that to happen, Chapter 2 needs to come to a close. It was a wonderful chapter, one none of us would trade anything for having been a part of; however, it's time for the past to be remembered fondly and the future to be reached for.

I quoted Winston Churchill a few months ago when I addressed you: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." My brothers and sisters, we are now at the beginning of the end.

Please continue to walk with us hand in hand and be patient. I know wonderful things are just around the corner. We are almost there. Trust that God has a plan for us, and please pray for your church leaders to make good decisions while trying to do His will.

Yours in service,

Jon

Diocesan Profile Survey

Search for Bishop Coadjutor at Council 2023

Bishop Reed announced his retirement earlier this year. Now the process of finding his successor begins. Part of that process is the creation of the diocesan profile. It's very similar to what we did to create our parish profile, only it will include our entire diocese. This document will be available to those bishops interested in becoming our Bishop Coadjutor. The Diocesan Standing Committee has empowered the Executive Board to create a diocesan survey and profile.



We invite you to prayerfully consider participating in this process by completing an online survey. The deadline has been extended to July 25. Every answer will help the Standing Committee and Executive Board create our diocesan profile.

Click [here for the link](#) to the survey.

Search Process Update

The Search Process Continues...

Hi St. Mark's Faithful,
Please continue to pray for the search process, for St. Mark's, for our future rector and family, and for God's promises and purpose to be fulfilled here!

Scripture:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:9-11



- Pray for the search committee members and their families.
- Pray that they will have the mind of Christ as they make progress.
- Pray that God would increase our next rector's passion for preaching the Word of God.
- Pray that God would give our next rector a love for our church.
- Pray for the formation of new relationships at our church.
- Pray for our next rector's family.
- Pray as the Spirit leads you.

Keep Praying!!

Ministry Opportunity



Open Your Heart and Your Home by Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

Would you like to have the opportunity to learn about another culture and share yours? Do you have a little extra room in your heart and home for a foreign exchange student? If so, please call 361-986-0814 and leave a message for Dayna Chimelski. She would be happy to tell

you about experiences she and her husband Scott have had hosting several students and answer any questions you may have. She can also put you in touch with a reputable exchange program which is currently seeking to place students for the upcoming school year.

Email Issue

Email Problems Again...

If your email ends with **sbcglobal.net** or **att.net**, please note that your email provider is blocking group emails from St. Mark's office. You may need to contact your provider to request that St. Mark's emails be allowed to go through. The office can't do that because the providers have identified St. Mark's as a "spammer".



Happening #151

Diocesan Youth Spiritual Retreat August 5-7

Happening is a spiritual Renewal weekend retreat for youth who are rising 10th graders through graduating 12th grade youth. It is led by peers with the support of lay and clergy from our diocese.



Happening #151 will be hosted by St. Francis Episcopal Church in Victoria beginning Friday evening, August 5th, at 7:00 p.m. and concluding Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

Scholarships are available to cover the \$60 cost of registration. [Click here](#) for more information.

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 several 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 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.
- Bequest giving is another way to give to St. Mark's with a gift through your estate. Simply list St. Mark's in your will.

**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 July schedule for our ministries, which is still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

July 24 - Sunday

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

11:15 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

July 26 - Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Library

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

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

July 27 - Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Kiko's Mexican Restaurant--5514 Everhart Rd.

12:00 p.m. - Noonday Prayer Group--Library

July 28 - Thursday

7:00 p.m. - South Texas Amateur Radio Club--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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