

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

July 27, 2023

Upcoming Events

Game Night

8/2, Wednesday

Strategic Planning

8/4-5, Friday and Saturday

Blessing for Back to School

8/6, Sunday

Hooks Game

8/11, Friday

St. Mark's Day at the Beach

8/19, Saturday

In This Issue

From the Rector

Meals for Beth

Game Night

Strategic Planning Retreat

Remind Texting System

Back to School Blessing

St. Mark's Day at the Beach

Children's Worship Activity Bags

Outreach Opportunities

Diocesan Events

Giving Information

Weekly Calendar

Helpful Links

Sunday Worship Service:

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

Visit our website

From the Rector Fr. Doug Wasinger



“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.” – Joel A Barker

I heard this quote during one of my evening walks around my neighborhood. For most of my priestly ministry I have heard about the importance of having a vision, a plan, or clearly expressed direction for the success of any organization. During my senior year of college, one of my business course instructors pointed out that most of the businesses that failed did so because they either didn't have a vision statement or the organization did not stick with its vision statement. Since having a vision statement and adhering to it is important, the leadership of St. Mark's has been working for the past five months on a strategic plan that will guide the focus of St. Mark's for the next three to five years.

Click here for the rest of [the article](#).

Meals for Beth



Meals for Beth Offutt through Take them a Meal.com

We need your help to provide meals for Beth Offutt. We are using an online tool called TakeThemaMeal.com, which allows people to see who has signed up to take a meal and what they are providing. It's very helpful when a lot of people are a part of the team.

Dietary needs are listed on the website, as well as contact info and other instructions. Click here for the link to [Beth's schedule](#). If the link gives you trouble, you may go to takethemameal.com, click on the "Find a Meal Schedule", and enter Offutt in the name area and 1238 for the password. It will take you directly to Beth's page. Select a date and type in what you want to bring.

Please be aware that Beth doesn't need full meals; providing a serving or two will be great.

Game Night

Fun, Fellowship and Games Wednesday, 8/2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Beat the heat and come inside!

Everyone is invited to an all ages game night in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, August 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. You can bring your favorite board game or a deck of cards, or maybe try out a new game you've never heard of! Eat dinner beforehand, and we'll have popcorn and cookies. Invite a friend, too!



Strategic Planning Retreat



Strategic Planning Retreat Friday & Saturday, 8/4-5

Approximately 20 of the leaders here at St. Mark's will gather to work through the process of forming a strategic plan that will map out our direction for the next three to five years. Please keep them and the process in your prayers that all are guided by the Holy Spirit.

Remind Texting System

Remind Church Texting Service



We will begin using REMIND as a communication tool. It is utilized by 80% of national school districts. REMIND will give us the ability to send text messages directly to your phone, and it will allow you to respond with a message if necessary. Another positive aspect of this platform is that your phone number is protected.

We are using the free version and are limited on the number of groups we may create. Below is a list of nine groups that have been created for our ministries, some of which have been combined. If this works well for us, we may expand our plan to include more ministry groups.

Please be sure to sign up for every ministry group you're involved in. We're asking everyone to sign up for the "**General Announcements**" group because it will be used for event reminders and emergency related information. The group will be one-way texting only.

To sign up for important updates from your ministry group, please text **@(the code for the ministry you are signing up for)** to **81010**.

- **General Announcements @stmarkgen**
- **Youth and Children's Ministry @739d77**
- **Ushers and Greeters @6hed62**
- **Sunday Worship Services** (This includes Presentation Managers / Livestream / LEMs / Lectors / Security Officers / Newcomer Ministers) **@a8c8d8**
- **Outreach Team / Access Plus @82fghdh**
- **Hospitality /Coffee Hour @7c8g6k**
- **College/Young Adult Ministries @69f48hh**
- **Altar Guild @6g9b847**
- **Acolytes @gkf737**

We are excited about having another tool to help with our communications.

Back to School Blessing



blessing too!

Back to School Blessing Sunday, August 6th

Each year before school starts, we have a blessing said over our students and those who work in schools-- not just in elementary, middle, and high school but those at colleges, trade schools, and everything in between. Backpacks are also blessed, so don't forget to bring yours on the 6th to make sure it receives a

St. Mark's Day at the Beach

Beach Day in Port Aransas Saturday, August 19

The Wandels have rented a large tent to provide shade for us while we enjoy a Saturday at the beach with our church family. They will also provide tables and ice chests filled with ice. You'll need to bring your own food or snacks, drinks, towels, sunscreen, chairs, sand toys, boogie boards, and anything else you would take for a trip to beach.



The mile marker identifying where the tent will be set up will be available later. For now, put the date on your calendars!

Children's Activity Bags



Children's Worship Activity Bags

During COVID we had to stop offering cloth activity bags for the children to use during our worship service. Now that we're post pandemic, we're bringing the bags back.

You'll find them in a red plastic bin on the bench located on the left side of the entryway as you walk into the sanctuary. Please pick one up for your child to enjoy and return it to the red bin as you leave the service so the contents may be replenished for the next Sunday.

Outreach Opportunities

Outreach Opportunities

New Life Refuge Ministries is having an event called "Christmas in July," which gives people an opportunity to support their ministry of caring for child survivors of trafficking as they work their way through healing. [Click here](#) to participate in purchasing gift cards for goodies for the children.



Mission 911 is hosting a [Cost of Poverty Experience](#) for those who have never experienced poverty first hand but have their own assumptions and theories about what poverty is. Tony Reyes says that poverty is both a cause and an effect of homelessness, drugs, crime, and violence. Women and children are often the victims.

COPE (Cost of Poverty Experience) is an annual poverty simulation event through which participants can actually experience poverty first hand — the situations, decisions, and dilemmas that the poor face every day. This year it is scheduled for October 12th.

Diocesan Events



Diocesan News

Bishop Coadjutor Consecration Service--Click on [this link](#) to watch the Consecration service and read the article. [Click here](#) for pictures and the blog.

New: Youth, Children, and Family Ministry Summit--Click on [this link](#) for information on this one-day event August 19th. The cost is \$75 per person.

Connecting with College Missions--Click on [this link](#) if you'd like to get connected with the diocesan college ministry.

Diocesan ENews--Sign up for the [Diocese of West Texas ENews](#) by clicking the link. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on a white button that has "Let's Connect" written in it.

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

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

Thank-you for Your Generosity

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 worshipping 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 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.
- You may also use the QR code below.
- 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 an ongoing work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

July 30 - Sunday

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

11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

July 31 - Monday

9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

August 2 - Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Cafe Italia, 4117 S. Staples St.

12:00 p.m. - Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library

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

6:30 p.m. - Game Night--Fellowship Hall

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.stmarksc.org

