



Inside This Issue

2008 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Glory and Praise Be To God For All That We Have Heard And Seen! So said the 68 children involved in this year's Christmas Pageant.

—Page 2

THE RETURN OF LENTEN LUNCHEON

Are you ready? Are you willing? Are you able to serve?

—Page 3

JANUARY ADULT FORMATION

Schedule inside.

—Page 3

WELCOME THE NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Bill Edwards joins the St. Mark's staff.

—Back Page

2008 Christmas to the Streets

Outreach a HUGE Success!

By Todd Allison, Interim Youth Director

The 4th annual collaboration of Ruby's Kitchen and St. Mark's Youth began Friday night. Over 35 kids participated in a lock-in to enjoy some fun and fellowship as well as help with the many preparations for Saturday. They sorted and folded the various gloves, hats, and other items donated to be distributed as well as



set up to serve the meal. At the same time a group of St. Mark's guys, led by retired youth minister Gene Alderman, spent the night in the east parking lot cooking brisket and sausage.

Saturday could not have gone any better. The week's cold weather made way for an overcast but otherwise great day. Kids and other volunteers, about 50 in all, served brisket, sausage, homemade tamales, potato salad, macaroni salad, desserts (donated from Sunset Station) and all the fixings to over 300 homeless and near homeless.

To all who in one way or the other made the 4th Annual St. Mark's Christmas to the Streets a huge success: **Thank you for your support and help!**

Please visit the "Jr. & Sr. High Ministries" section of the St. Mark's website for more pictures.

The Messenger is published twice monthly and is available in PDF format online at www.stmarks-sa.org

Parish Clergy

The Rev. Michael D. Chalk

Rector

The Rev. Jonathan Wickham

Assistant Rector

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Dr. John Lewis

Co-director, The Work+Shop

The Rev. Jane Patterson

Co-director, The Work+Shop

Making a Gift

of Their Service

The Rev. Mary Earle

Assisting Priest

Staff

Todd & Jennifer Allison

Interim Youth Directors

Janet Carrizales

Nursery Coordinator

Bill Edwards

Parish Administrator

Elaine Enloe

Receptionist and Interim

Children's Ministry Director

Emmet Faulk

Information Technology

CAYA Worship Coordinator

Carolyn Gish

Parish Development

Ruby Merrill

Facility Manager

Pat Hutchison Noble

Community of Care

Priscilla Polanco

Accounting

Edwin Rieke

Organist & Dir. of Music

Kristin Roach

Asst. Organist & Dir. of Music

Sharon Winn

Parish Life Administrator

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

315 East Pecan St.

San Antonio, TX 78205

Christmas Pageant 2008



Glory and Praise Be To God For All That We Have Heard And Seen! So said the 68 (!) children involved in this year's Christmas Pageant. Every child loves telling the story of Jesus birth – and at St. Mark's we do it in grand style!

Events like these are only possible with tremendous support from all the parents. To Helen Ballew, our costume chair, and the costume team

– Mechelle Fowler, Melissa Rubiola, Nicole McNeel - thank you for your loving care (and fabulous organization!) turning each child into their special character! To our kid wrangling team - Don Lucas, Emma Matthews, Carol Ann Baker, Gabriella Grimes, Jennifer Colglazier, Julie Van Zandt, Kim and Steve Wood, Clara Wilder, Jennifer Merritt, David Ribble, Elizabeth Rogers, Jeanette Ross, Todd Allison, Robin Voight, Vickey Haff, Dina Jones - thank you for keeping the kids entertained and quiet during rehearsals and where they needed to be for the pageant! Thank you to our youth helpers – Gabriella Grimes, Alexandra Tamez, Natalie Ribble, and Rocio Rodriguez - for pitching in with whatever was needed! Thank you to all of the families who provided snacks for our Saturday rehearsals! And last but certainly not least, a “big thank you” to Ruby and the sextons for all the behind the scenes set up and takedown!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kristin Roach, *Assistant director of music*



New Connections Brunch

St. Mark's will be hosting “New Connections” for those who are new to the parish and those still considering whether to become part of the community. We will gather in the Youth Suite (Room 309 of the Parish House) on **Saturday, January 24th** from **9:30-12:00**. Take this opportunity to meet with others who are searching for a church home, visit with the clergy in a relaxed atmosphere and learn about this historic church's; Past, Present, and Future. A light brunch will be served during the morning. On **Sunday, February 8th**, those who desire to become members of St. Mark's will be welcomed during the New Member Liturgy Service.

Childcare will be available upon request. Please notify the church office at (210) 226-2426 by **Tuesday, January 20th** if you are planning to reserve space in the nursery.

Contact Carolyn Gish at 226-2426 if you are going to attend New Connections.



Discipleship Training for Leadership at St. Mark's

Take up your cross and follow me

The Vestry invites you to a four session course on Discipleship Training for Leadership. The first session will be held on Saturday, January 31, from 8:30 to 12 in Tom Gish Hall. Under the leadership of John Lewis and Jane Patterson we will discern what it means to be a leader in a Christian Community. The other sessions in May, September, and November will be described in detail in the January Messenger. Please mark your calendars and plan to come on the 31st and encourage others to join you. We have so many capable people within our parish and we are making a conscious effort to discern new leadership as we forge new ministries and continue with those we have done in the past.

Lector Training for 9am Service

**Saturday, January 17th
8:30-11am in the church**

If you are interested in being trained as a Lector, a person who reads the appointed Lesson in the service each Sunday, please come to the Lector Training program to be held on January 17 at 8:30am in the church. There will be a brief program describing the role of the Lector in the liturgy and the new procedures adopted at the 9:00 a.m. service. Please call the parish office if you plan to attend, 226-2426. Questions call Pat Bridwell at 930-7199. The meeting is required for anyone desiring to be a 9:00am Lector.



Lenten Luncheons to Return in 2009!

**Thursdays and Fridays
March 12 – April 3**

**IMPORTANT!
Kitchen
Information**

11am-1:30pm
(in Gosnell Hall)
Volunteers please call Judy Rux
at 210-799-0707.
A publicity person is needed.

Wednesday and Thursday Evening Dinners

on a experimental basis during
January & February
begins
Wednesday, January 7 &
Thursday, January 8
5:00 -7:30pm in Gosnell Hall.

January Adult Formation

Every Week @ 10:10am

**Reading Scripture in Community- Rm. 305
Erik Frederick- facilitator**

Join us for this weekly reading and reflection on the day's Gospel lesson.

ADULT FORMATION

Tom Gish Hall @ 10:10am

January 4th & January 25th

**"Jesus as Rabbi:
Exploring the Parables"**

*The Revs. Jane Patterson and
John Lewis*

This class continues a study through the parables of Jesus. Each week we read and reflect on a parable considering the various ramifications for our daily lives.

January 11th

"The Spiritual Life"

The Rev. Mike Chalk

Rev. Chalk will present a class and discussion focusing on spirituality and the path toward spiritual maturity.

January 18th

"Different Jewish Views of God."

*Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
Temple Beth-El*

Rabbi Stahl will present a special class on Jewish understandings of God. He will emphasize that the Hebrew Bible contains numerous references to a God of love and mercy and Judaism is essentially a religion of action, rather than a creedal faith.

FAMILY LIFE DEVELOPMENT

Room 102 @ 10:10am

January 4th

"New Year's Resolutions"

The Rev. Jonathan Wickham

In this class we'll consider how our New Year's resolutions shape our vision for our families life in the coming year.

January 11th

"Baptismal Meaning"

The Rev. Jonathan Wickham

On the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord we will talk about what it means to be baptized in the church. How do we help our children grow into the promises we have made on their behalf?

January 18th & January 25th

"EpiscoBasics"

The Rev. Jonathan Wickham

Stand, kneel, sit, cross yourself, bow... there are many movement and particularities in Episcopal worship. Let's explore some of these as we see how they fit into faith formation in your family.

2009 Vestry Stewardship Report

As of 12/30/2008

	2009	Same Period 2008	Total for 2008
Total Number of Pledges to Date	360 (↓ 4%)	374	426
Total Amount of Pledges to Date	\$1,320,961 (↓ 10%)	\$1,465,727	\$1,589,297
Average Pledge	\$3,669 (↓ 6%)	\$3,919	\$3,731

New Pledging Units (individuals or families)	36 (↑ 20%)	30	42
Total \$ Per New Pledging Units	\$54,570 (↓ 20%)	\$68,174	\$82,054
Average New Pledge Amount	\$1,516 (↓ 33%)	\$2,272	\$1,954

We want to thank all of you who have submitted a pledge for 2009. Currently, we are below all amounts vs. last year except for number of new pledging units. If you have not pledged yet, please consider pledging today!

YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE ONLINE @ WWW.STMARKS-SA.ORG

Kathleen Weir Vale & David Phipps
2009 Stewardship Co-chairs

Welcome Our New Parish Administrator



Bill Edwards
Parish
Administrator

We are glad to welcome Bill Edwards who has joined the staff as the Parish Administrator. As I searched for an administrator, I was looking for someone who could undertake more of the management responsibilities of the church. This person will coordinate and manage the lay support staff, the lay leadership of the parish, and oversee the financial operation of the parish.

Bill will work closely with me, but relieving me of much of the day to day operations. This will enable me to focus more of my time on leadership development, building relationships, and spiritual enrichment.

Born in Albany, Georgia, Bill graduated

from The University of Texas with a BA, and spent three years in the United States Marine Corps. Bill's employment consisted of 35 years of distribution in food, chemicals, and plastics. He resided mainly in Jacksonville, Florida but worked also in Austin and Dallas Texas. Bill will bring a great deal of leadership and management skills and experience that will be extremely beneficial to St. Mark's.

Bill is married to Mary Agnes Rochs and they have three children, two daughters and a son, and two grandchildren.

In our conversations, Bill has indicated that he truly feels he is called to this work by God and is excited about working with this great staff and the people of St. Mark's.

The Rev. Mike Chalk
Rector

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