

Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms. — St Augustine



Rev. Alston B. Johnson
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Dear Friends,

My hope in the New Year is that God is blessing you, even in the midst of the “changes and chances of this life” that we are sharing during these days. At St. Mark's we continue to adjust the sails, secure the rigging, tacking and jibing according to how the wind may be coming toward us. As I was once told by a flying instructor, “Alston, you don't have to white-knuckle the stick. You are not holding this airplane in the air; this machine was built to fly.” This is how I feel

about our congregation, our worship, and our personal lives of faith during this season. Throughout their journey together, Jesus shares advice with his friends about how to “be,” and who to “be,” when

things become frustrating and difficult; there is a kind of short-course in resilience. He assures them that they will be accompanied and led by an advocate and guide; he reminds them of their destination

and the will of God when all may seem lost and they are worried:

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

— Luke 12:31-32

Here are a few of the projects we are taking in hand:

- Creating the video, audio, and website platform necessary to livestream our services. We should be finished by the time this newsletter finds you.

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**Join us for our
 Annual Meeting on Sunday,
 January 24, 2021 during the
 10:30 am service.**

We will worship in the Cathedral and the brief meeting will take place during the announcements.

Lunch will **not** be served.

Vestry Slate Announced

Pursuant to the by-laws of St. Mark's Cathedral the Nominating Committee has nominated the following persons to be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 24, 2021** to serve four year terms on the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral:

Rebecca Bryant
Patrick Caraway
Lynn Yancey

Mark Sealy
Clarence Babineaux

The following names will be placed in nomination for the Warden positions:

Bill Kalmbach – Senior Warden
Lisa Love – Junior Warden

The following names will be placed in nomination for delegates to the 2021 Diocesan convention:

Cynthia Anderson
Jim Anderson
Patrick Caraway
Bob Ewing

Alternates:
Bill Kalmbach
Lisa Love

Senior Warden Lad Shemwell will be stepping down and will be honored for his years of service. The following members are rotating off the Vestry this year and will be honored for their service:

Matt Coady **Brandy Griffes**
Carol Anne Caraway **Debbie Hall**
Bob Ewing

SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday Holy Eucharist

JANUARY 3, 2021
The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31 :7-14 Ephesians 1 :3-6, 15-19a
Psalm 84 : 1-8 Matthew 2 :13-15, 19-23

JANUARY 10, 2021
*The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of Our Lord*

Genesis 1 :1-5 Acts 19 :1-7
Psalm 29 Mark 1 :4-11

JANUARY 17, 2021
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 1 Corinthians 6 :12-20
Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-17 Luke 1:26-38

JANUARY 24, 2021
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Psalm 62:6-14 Mark 1:14-20

JANUARY 31, 2021
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Psalm 111 Mark 1:21-28

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- Undertaking a Pew Renovation project with the help and direction of a newly formed Memorials Committee. More information will be forthcoming.
- The pre-planning for a memorial within the Cathedral honoring those who have given their lives in the service of our nation, as well as those who are veterans of the Armed Forces.
- The creation of a Discipleship Group to assist me in planning and providing for lifelong Christian formation at St. Mark's, with a special focus on those areas where I see gaps – college and young singles, the church in mission, the widowed, personal prayer, and fun and fellowship for Middle and High school.

My intention is that work in these areas will be underway by the time we leave the current quarantine, and that we can be shoring up our cathedral life from a distance until that day arrives.

During this Season of Epiphany, our resilience rises from the truth of the message that we receive at Christmas, as found in the words of St. Augustine above; the "truth" of God is not something that is shelved in an old book. The truth of God is not simply the best idea, or the right idea, reserved for the cleverest, and the best and the brightest. The truth of God is not something that we purchase through a life well lived, or a prize waiting in the midst of our leisure once our temporal work is done. The real truth of life, the real truth of God, is something that was given, was born, and was carried in a mother's arms through the life and world in which we are actually living. Our resilience during troubled times, our hope and light during difficulty and darkness, was presented from another time and place so that we might not have to suffer the want of anticipation and purpose in our own times and places. Because "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," we can call upon heaven when our own flesh is weak and burdened with discouragement. My friends, let us be encouraged, we are not forsaken, we are simply "making our way" to the new Jerusalem.

Blessings and Godspeed,
Alston Johnson
Dean – St. Mark's

Weekday Worship at the Cathedral

Wednesdays:
7:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist



Lost Anything at Church?

Or maybe you're just missing some item and have no idea where it might have gone. Drop by or call the church office and check into our lost and found! We have everything from sunglasses to scarves to cell phones to jewelry (including some very nice pieces.) Check and see what you're missing!



New Year's Day Office Hours

*We will be closed on
Friday, January 1, 2021.*

A full-color version of *The Evangelist* is on our website! Go to "Media," then "The Evangelist."

St. Mark's EYC News



Happy New Year!

Despite the challenges of this past year, St. Mark's EYC has both held together and grown. Average EYC attendance has nearly tripled over the course of 2020 even during a long period of not being able to meet in person. I give huge thanks to Sarah, Stephen, and our EYC mentors who have helped build this youth group. We had to bid farewell to two of our EYC mentors, Carson and Laura, who moved. We send prayers of blessings and best wishes for them as they start this new chapter of their life together, and we give thanks for their service during their time at St. Mark's



We will resume EYC on January 10th in-person. Please look to our Instagram page @smceyc (also on Facebook) for weekly updates and information on events. God Bless your New Year. God is doing great things in St. Mark's EYC.

Rev. Andrew Christiansen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 1	Julia Ameen	14	20	27
Carson Jones	7	John David Stewart	Christy Porter	Jackie Cooper
2	Eron Brainard	Andy Hodges	Mary Margaret Thomas	Susu Jones
Ann Shanley	Caroline Turnage	Tim Brown	Julian Weaver	Dru Florsheim
Michele Hardtner	8	Derek Holtsclaw	21	Blain Coady
3	Bevelyn Shotts	Lillian Comegys	George Plaxco	28
Helen Herzog	Robert Yongjun Johnson	Sloan Hall	Donna McGaunn	Henry Coutret
Anne Mitchell	9	Gardner McInnis	Claire Rebouche	Merritt Chastain
John Godwin	Jack Carlisle	Maisey McInnis	Paris Marsalis	Foster Gavin
John Paul Grigsby	Beth Cantrell	15	Mary Catherine Kneip	29
Claude Lockhart	Holly Marshall	Henry McMurry	22	Kelly Larremore
Faye Aaron	Brady Howard	16	Emily Pressly	Katherine Russo
4	Madeline Crawford	Nancy Mobley	Theresa Johnson	Julian Weber
Andrea Giacalone	10	Katie Mitchell	24	30
Mary O'Brien	Yulonda Mayo	Drew Larremore	Sarah Herrington	Beth Temple
Sean Stott	Mary Katherine Clark	Corinne Peterson	Briggs Mobley	Rachel Stari
Mae Smitherman	Ben Hodges	17	25	Connor Peterson
Nickolas Gore	Teddy McMurry	Pat Turnage	Lissa Grounsell	Isabella Foster
5	11	Kim Stroud	Gary Love	Catherine Schoonover
Curt McClure	Alden Woods	Chadd Bylsma	Kelly Crawford	31
Charlotte Walter	12	Brady Thompson	Evan LeBleu	Kay Redstone
Sunni Burgess	Sherry Martin	18	Jett Trudeau	Cindy Millen
Jennifer Jones	Reilly Weber	Carol Gamble	26	Henry Byrd
Erin Dicharry	Gus Lea	Rick Fisher	Wayne Carter	
6	Mobley Carnie	19	Theresa Meldrum	
Marti Westmoreland	Camille Lofton	Sherry Batchelor	Beth Ann Holmes	
Shirleen McKay	13	Gloria Haynes	Renee Deupree	
Terri Nelson	Jennifer Varnadore	Katherine Van Hook	Robin Quinn	

Cathedral School News

by Dr. Chris Carter, Headmaster
ccarter@smc.school

Happy New Year from all of us at St. Mark's School! I know that all of us at the school are hopeful that 2021 will see us move past always having to think first about pandemic protocols and return our focus to best practices for children's intellectual and spiritual needs.

This month begins the admissions season for the 2021-2022 school year. During January we will offer reenrollment contracts to all current students as well as younger siblings of current students who are now ready to begin school. Then in February we will begin offering contracts to new families. Although the pandemic prevents a traditional Open House, we are still able to offer individual tours. If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about the curriculum and program of St. Mark's Cathedral School, we would be glad to schedule a tour whenever its convenient

for you. In keeping with our commitment to inclusivity, the school offers financial aid and gives parishioners priority in making awards. To learn about our curriculum, as well as spiritual and extracurricular offerings, please check out our website, www.stmarksschool.com.

Finally, I want to offer a huge thank you to all the parishioners who supported the school through purchasing Christmas greenery, wrapping paper, or ornaments! These Parents' Club fundraisers directly support student and teacher programming and help us keep tuition lower for our families. We had truly tremendous support from parishioners this year, and we are so very grateful!



Christmas Season 2020 at St. Mark's Cathedral



MEMORIAL FLOWERS

January 3

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy & Bill Wene Smith and Kendall Ann Smith.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of the St. Mark's Cathedral Clergy.

January 10

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of The Friend Family, The Woodard Family, Mr. & Mrs. C.S. Dean, Sr., and Mike Dean.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of Winn Simonton, Jimmy Cowles, Lily Cowles, Mary Campbell, Mamie Hightower and Tad Hightower on their birthdays.

January 17

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Dunbrack Ewing, Jr. and John D. and Helen Gray Ewing.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the homecoming of George Kayser Kneip.

January 24

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carolyn Querbes Nelson, Nell & George Nelson and Katherine and Justin Querbes.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. H. Murphy and Martha Yearwood, Ginny Barkley Hollingsworth, Brooks Yearwood and Bonnie Yearwood.

January 31

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frank John (Jack) Reeks, Sr.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Val A. Lyons.

DEATHS

Rest Eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Gail Yvonne Robinson, sister of **Theresa Meldrum**, on December 2, 2020.

Dorothy Markaverich, mother of **Mary O'Neal**, grandmother of **Cole, Pearce & Barron O'Neal, Jr.** and **Elizabeth Vanderberg**, on December 2, 2020.

Daniel Nsubuga, brother of **Fr. Thomas Nsubuga**, on December 12, 2020.

Marilyn Osburn, on December 18, 2020.

Janet Sibley, on December 10, 2020.

Mary Jo Davis, grandmother of **Jon Davis**, great-grandmother of **Whit, Anderson and Kate Davis**, on December 31, 2020.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WEDDINGS

Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Frances Boston Blount & Edward Simpson Stroud, on December 21, 2020.

BAPTISMS

William Wayne Wagoner, son of **Lydia & John Wagoner**, on December 5, 2020.

John Curtis Wagoner, on December 5, 2020.

John Wiley Harmon, son of **Whitney & Jonathan Harmon**, on December 26, 2020.

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.



St. Mark's Physical Training
Monday-Friday 5:30 am at the Cathedral

meets at 5:30 a.m. every weekday morning in the field across from the parking lot.



Oblationers Needed

Our Hospitality Committee invites parishioners (families, adult singles, siblings, friends) to serve as oblationers (gift bearers) at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. This is a meaningful way to serve the faith community. For more information please contact **Kathy Williams at 469-9211**.

Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

Lad Shemwell, Senior Warden – Bill Kalmbach, Junior Warden – Murray Viser, Treasurer – John Reeks, Chancellor

2020	2021	2022	2023
Matt Coady	Marilyn Kirkland	Ellen Alley	Ellen Erwin
Carol Anne Caraway	Lisa Love	Mike Ameen	Joe Jayroe
Bob Ewing	Cody Mayo	Oliver Jenkins	Josh Knicely
Brandy Griffes	William Weaver	Brad Massad	Theresa Meldrum
Debbie Hall	Bud Westmoreland	Emily Merkle	Joy Ratcliff

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby
(Bishop of Western Louisiana)
bishopjake@epiwl.org

The Very Rev. Alston Johnson
(Dean)
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The Very Rev. Thomas Nsubuga
(Sub-Dean)
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The Rev. Dr. Rowena White
(Canon)
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The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter
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The Rev. Drew Christiansen (Curate)
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Bryan T. Mitnaul
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John Scheel (Facilities Manager)
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Becky Deverts
(Financial Office Manager)
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Bess Maxwell
(Administrative Assistant)
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Jennifer Beruvides (Coordinator for
Events and Hands-on Outreach Ministry)
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Cynthia Anderson (Receptionist)
cynthia@stmarkscathedral.net

Beth Reeks
(Minister for Pre-K Children's Programs)
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