

"I thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou has so set eternity within my heart that no earthly thing can ever satisfy me wholly."

— John Baille



Rev. Alston B. Johnson
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I sometimes wonder

how the first followers of Jesus explained their decision to follow the inspired, prayerful, preaching Carpenter from Nazareth to friends and family. I would love to hear the first few times someone explained themselves as a "Jesus follower"; once they found that person, those words and actions, that presence, taking root in their minds and hearts. How do we explain that our lives have been touched by something unexplainable?

Did that moment come in the fields, during a harvest, working the rows of wheat, or olive trees, when there is nothing to do but labor and visit? "Where have you been? We haven't seen much of you lately? I heard you were down to Peter's house in Capernaum listening to that Carpenter. What's going on? You're not taking that seriously are you?"

Perhaps there was silence. Perhaps a smile. Perhaps there was a far away look with a smile opening on the inside. Perhaps a nod, or shake of the head, "I don't know; there's just something about it, about him. Something there." And then the hope that the subject would pass in the midst of that easy recognition between friends that some things are better left unsaid. Not ready to talk about it; but enough had been said.

Or maybe that moment came sitting around a table where the wine has made one round too many. Those moments when the laughter is easy, and the laughter about others is even easier. There is a voice with a snicker in the throat, "Oh I went down and heard that Carpenter. Captivating. Not bad looking either. He talks nice. But half the folks following him around are fools; you know how like seeks like. And they're all doting on him and his little cadre; seems like a bunch of silly and soft-headed half-wits being led around by the nose. He's an operator that's all; found himself a brood of sycophants. That's all it is."

(Continued on page 2)



Ash Wednesday Services

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

7:00 am	Ministry Center Garden Room
Noon	Parish Hall
5:30 pm	Cathedral

Annual Meeting

The Cathedral Annual Meeting was held during the 10:30 am service on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Elected to serve four year terms on the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral were:

Clarence Babineaux	Mark Sealy
Rebecca Bryant	Lynn Yancey
Patrick Caraway	

Bill Kalmbach was elected Senior Warden and **Lisa Love** Junior Warden.

Elected as delegates to the 2021 Diocesan Convention were:

Cynthia Anderson	Alternates:
Jim Anderson	Bill Kalmbach
Patrick Caraway	Lisa Love
Bob Ewing	

Outgoing Senior Warden **Lad Shemwell** and outgoing Vestry members **Matt Coady**, **Carol Anne Caraway**, **Bob Ewing**, **Brandy Griffes** and **Debbie Hall** were honored for their service.

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40 :21-31 1 Corinthians 9 :16-23
Psalm 147 :1-12, 21c Mark 1 :29-39

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 5 :1-14 1 Corinthians 9 :24-27
Psalm 30 Mark 1 :40-45

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

The First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3 :18-22
Psalm 25:1-9 Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25
Psalm 22:22-30 Mark 8:31-38

**Lost
Anything
at Church?**

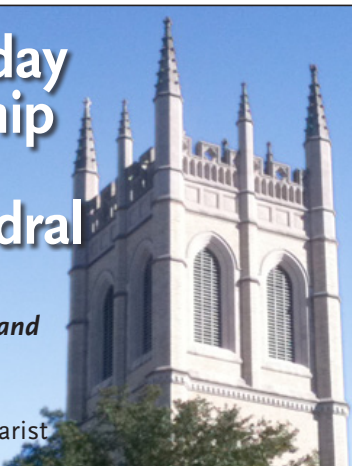


Or maybe you're just missing some item and have no idea where it might have gone. Drop by or call the church office and check into our lost and found! We have everything from sunglasses to scarves to cell phones to jewelry (including some very nice pieces.) Check and see what you're missing!

**Weekday
Worship
at the
Cathedral**

**Monday,
Wednesday, and
Friday:**

7:00 a.m.
Lenten Eucharist



(Continued from page 1)

There are nods and laughter and snickering all around. But there is one head that is not nodding. One is quietly watching. The nodding faces turn, almost simultaneously, with a single question imprinted in their raised eyebrows. Nothing is said. Nothing needs to be said; the question, the accusation, is felt. In that moment, the silence around the table gives utterance, "What? Not you? Not you too?"

The silent question is broken by the one who is not laughing; who gently nods, or shakes, her head saying to all those raised eyebrows, "I don't know; there's just something about it, about him. Something there."

I wonder about such moments within the great river of time that connects us in Shreveport, Louisiana to handfuls of people who lived along the shores of Galilee, or kept flocks and fields in the surrounding hills. I wonder about such moments because I have lived on both sides of such moments. I have been both the inquisitor and the witness. The one who laughs and the one who gently shakes the head. I have been the one who stands beneath the shade of easy assumptions and cynicism, and the one bent over in the light of a new truth, groping forward, and nodding my head saying yes to the "something there."

I realize now that I only know my divine friend, Jesus, and know that a just God can love unjust creatures, because so many moments like these bind us to the Kingdom of God like a band of gold, or a lifeline, in the storm. We are connected to that Carpenter by a long human-chain held tight through the vicissitudes of time. Of course the faith we share is built upon great and tremendous actions taken throughout the long history of the world; but it is equally bound together by these small, yet profound and potent moments when a decision for the Carpenter is being born in the individual heart and soul like a diamond forming beneath the layers of the earth. There would not be the great and tremendous movements of Christian history without these moments tucked away in the life of every person who has paused, scratched their head, and said "Yes, there is something there." These handful of moments in the villages of Galilee are why I sit at a desk in a place called Shreveport and write you about a Carpenter from Nazareth.

By design, following Jesus means that we live in one place while we are preparing to live forever in another place. Or as Saint Augustine puts it, "The sole purpose of life in time is to gain merit for life in eternity." During our lives we are becoming acquainted with those with whom we will share "table fellowship" forever. Like followers of Jesus in every age, we live in a world that is beyond our personal control; physically, in the case of the virus; politically, in the case of the state of our "state"; temporally, in the case of our own mortality and the end of our days. Yet, in every age, the followers of Jesus live in a broken world with their hearts and minds tuned to the "something" that the Carpenter brings.

The "something" is that God has created us, beyond our control and without our consent, as creatures who are destined to become "eternal beings" with his love, help, and guidance. While the events through which we are living seem to completely unmake the world as we have come to know and expect it, God's eternal hope for our eternal companionship and thanksgiving is not something destined to be unmade by the "hands of men."

And while current events threaten our temporal equilibrium, the Carpenter still walks among us; there is still the moment to nod the head, and say in the midst of our own desperate history, "Yes, there IS something there." In fact, it may be that those who follow us will look back centuries, or joining us in eternity, saying, "Thank You. Thank you for saying yes in your own day, that the circle might be unbroken."

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

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

St. Mark's EYC News



EYC continues to meet in person each Sunday evening. Our meeting time is 6:15-7:30, unless otherwise noted, during Phase II.

For all updates and info regarding St. Mark's EYC, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram @smceyc

Additionally, we are putting together a bi-weekly Bible Study for juniors and seniors that will meet off-site. Stay tuned for more info!

I give thanks for such a great start to a new calendar year for EYC. We have seen a handful of new faces over the past month become a part of EYC. It is such a privilege for me to be able to see younger folks in our church come together in community and encounter God through his Word every week.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten Season and that we each take the time this Lent to spend with God in prayer and contemplation, and following his guidance in our lives.

Fr. Drew+



The Fasting Fund – a St. Mark's Lenten Tradition

One of St. Mark's Lenten traditions is the Fasting Fund. The purpose is simple: We ask that you forgo one meal a week, and contribute a few dollars - what you would have spent on that meal - to the fasting fund. (Of course, you can forgo more than one meal a week if you wish.) Baskets are placed at the back of the chapel for the 7:00 a.m. Eucharist services and the base of the steps to the chancel for Sunday services to collect these offerings. Please consider making the Fasting Fund a part of your Lenten observance. A simple fast of one or more meals a week can teach us a lot about the temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness and our own earthly journey. Join us.



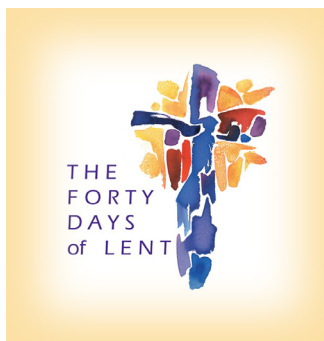
If you are going through a difficult time...

...one of the Stephen Ministers from St. Mark's may be able to help. Stephen Ministers are laypersons who have received special training to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support for persons who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. After all, there are many difficulties and transitions in this life! Why not give yourself the gift of a Stephen Minister who can accompany you on part of your journey?! The care you receive is confidential, free and very helpful. For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Rowena White at her email: Rowena@stmarkscathedral.net.



Expectant Moms of St. Mark's

If you are or know anyone who is expecting a child our committee is up and running and is looking for mommies to be. Please contact us at bess@stmarkscathedral.net or sign up on our website under family ministries. We hope to welcome mothers into our community. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Lenten Daily Eucharist

Due to COVID-19 protocols, our 7:00 a.m. Lenten Eucharists will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They will run through April 1. Monday and Friday services will be in the Chapel and Wednesday will be in the Garden Room.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 1

Joy Ratcliff
Stan Hancock
Taylor Love
Jeffrey Brainard

2

Lennis Elston
Matt Locke
Brooke Shemwell

3

Bettie Hastings
Laurie Bijou

4

Marilyn Kirkland
Candace Higginbotham
Scotty Denhollem
Kyle McInnis

5

Dalton Bijou
Marsha Friedrich
Ashley Jackson
Meredith Waltman

6

Sandy Dean
Ashley Kislá
Ashley McConnell
Tripp Day

7

Nancy Cesario
Richard Liles
K. Michael Kilcline
Watterson Young
Nicholas Fontana
Kathryn Jackson

9

Scott Grounsell
Gwenn Coley
Jamie Eagles
Jake Stroud
Kate Blanchard

10

D. Wesley Attaway
Elizabeth Gore
Morgan Ersoff
Colin Carter
Gaines Harris

11

Kim Kayser
Madison Ersoff

12

Lory Tubbs
Lynn Poole
Mickey Brown
Caffery Brown
Caitlin FitzGerald

Austin Sullivan
Spencer Hardtner

13

Zach Carter
William Stroud
Mary Stari
Michael Ameen, III

14

John Butcher
Vicki Johnson
Lee Smith
John White
Reid Jones
Elizabeth Vanderberg
Caroline Schoonover

15

Anita Berg
Dare Johnson
David Drummond
Kamarie Childs
Virginia Elbertson

16

Joan Gresham
Kip Porter
Stella Porter
Alexander Schoonover

17

Karen Kennedy

Ardie Cesario
Carl Pendley
Catherine Humphrey

18

Twylla Seaman
Abbie McCord

19

Mary Jo Kayser
Holli Hennessy
Michael Ameen
Layne LeBleu

20

Fran Hewitt
Dan Herndon

21

Carol Anne Caraway
Mario Villafuerte
Don Huguley
Thomas Nsubuga
Jackie Fontana
Brittany Owens
Gaffney Nelson

22

Denee Locke
Karla Querbes
Benjamin Johnson
Carson Massad
Ella Bylsma

Ford Gillen

23

Pede Adams
Melissa Harris
Jay Crooms
Nicole Cotter
Frances Jenkins

24

Cass Gaiennie
Deanna Kamphuis
Catherine Allen
Anna Sanderson
William Guthrie

25

Sara Hearne
Leigh Ann O'Brien
Suzanne Otto

26

Hugh Walmsley
Danielle Dean

27

Jon Q=Petersen
Donna Touchstone
Samantha Powers
Thompson Berry

28

Caroline Reeks
Rowan Guthikonda

Cathedral School News

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

After a nice Christmas break, students and teachers returned to St. Mark's Cathedral School refreshed and ready to learn. January and February always seem to me to provide some of the steadiest and most exciting periods of learning. Kindergarteners really take off with reading during this period, 2nd graders are getting excited about starting to learn cursive, 6th graders now have their first ever set of final exams under their belts, and 8th graders are excited about their high school applications.

Parishioners frequently ask me how this year of Covid has gone. I always answer that we have managed well and have been fortunate in only rarely having to quarantine a full grade, but it has been hard. Teachers are teaching students in class and virtually, and nearly every tradition or special event has had to be reexamined and re-created in order to fulfill pandemic protocols. None of this is bad in itself, but it has meant lots of hard work for teachers.

One of the most significant losses this year, in my mind, is that



we cannot allow students from different grades to intermingle. That has meant lunch in classrooms, most students attending Chapel on Zoom, and significant changes to special inter-grade traditions such as Chapel Buddies (1st and 5th grades), Big Brothers/Sisters (5th and 8th grades), and middle school students serving as Teacher Assistants in preschool and lower school. Over the years I have become a vocal advocate for the PreK-8th grade model because of the way it allows older children to serve as role models for younger ones and creates sibling-like relationships for some children. I have seen so many positive instances of these inter-age relationships over the years, even with my own now-graduated children. Pandemic protocols have, alas, largely prevented these opportunities and relationships, and I think we have all felt the loss of community that has resulted. I so look forward to being able again to have positive and appropriately supervised relations between our older and younger students next year, when we hope most of this year's restrictions will be past us.

Don't forget that we are now accepting applications for new students and that parishioners receive priority for both admission and financial aid in the instance of limited availability. Please contact the school if you would like to set up a tour or request information!

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

February 7

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paula Minor Coleman, Rowena Cowan Minor, Genevieve Davis Younker, Edwin Carroll Minor and Joseph Francis Loftus.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of The Very Rev. William Patrick Douthitt and J. Michael Douthitt.

February 14

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ada D'Aquin.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edwin Earl Jones and Claude Eldred Drumm, Jr., and in celebration of the birthday of Reid Allen Jones.

February 21

The greenery on the High Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brevard Clay, Mr. & Mrs. John Dunbrack Ewing and Nell Fish.

The greenery on the Chapel Altar is given to the glory of God and in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Susie & Scott Crichton.

February 28

The greenery on the High Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ray A. Barlow, Ray Allan Barlow, Jr., John Wallace Lloyd, Pauline & Bill Barlow and Nelle & Jim Aimer.

The greenery on the Chapel Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Delton Harrison.

BIRTHS

Alice Drumm Jones, on January 8, 2021.
Parents are **Tara & Reid Jones**. Big sister is **Emma Jones**.

Emile George Jackson, on January 10, 2021.
Parents are **Hailey & Blake Jackson**. Big sister is **Ada James Jackson**.

DEATHS

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

Fred Plitt, on January 22, 2021.

Lucy Denton Burton, on January 22, 2021
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Diapers and Wipes Needed!

During the month of February we will be collecting much needed family items: diapers and wipes. As a costly necessity, we can help out many parents at The Providence House and

Jewell House. Any sizes. Diapers and wipes may be dropped off at the church office beginning in February. Donations for diaper and wipes purchases are welcome also. Contact **Jennifer Beruvides** at Jennifer@stmarkacathedral.net for questions.



Birthday Card Ministry

This year, we launched a birthday card ministry to celebrate all of our parishioners. If you find yourself wanting to serve but needing to do it on your own time, please consider this meaningful ministry. Materials are provided. For more information, please contact **Lauren Ewing** at 550-1743 or lauren.ewing@me.com.



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.



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.

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)
rowena@stmarkscathedral.net

The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter
(Associate Clergy)
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The Rev. Drew Christiansen (Curate)
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Bryan T. Mitnaul
(Canon for Cathedral Music)
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John Scheel (Facilities Manager)
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Becky Deverts
(Financial Office Manager)
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Bess Maxwell
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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)
preschool.beth@gmail.com

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