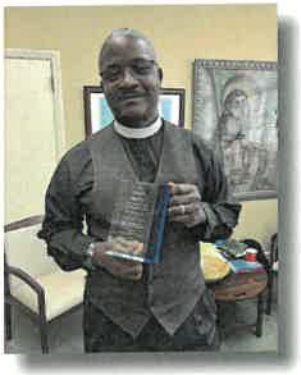
ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Parish Statistics 2025

Sacraments and Services:

Holy Eucharist	
Sunday	203
Weekday	154
Private	116
Daily Office	
Sunday	2
Weekday	135
Holy Baptism	
candidates 16 years and older	0
candidates under 16 years of age	16
Confirmation	
candidates 16 years and older	6
candidates under 16 years of age	16
Holy Matrimony	2
Burials	23

2024

Sunday attendance Year-to-date	16,160
Average Sunday attendance	310.8

20245

Sunday attendance Year-to-date	16,196
Average Sunday attendance	311.5

We remember in our prayers those who in the last year have entered into larger life:

R. Michael Demech, Holly Anne Fletcher, Billy Louis Bickham, James E. Sanders, Jr., William Paul Reyenga, Mary Clay Walmsley, Brenda Kraak Pettit, Richard Bradly Thibodeaux, Sonja Baker Rogers, Minette DeFrance Haynes, Jean Werner (Skip) Simonton, Peggy McClure Lyons, Beverly Anne Coltharp, Duane Robert Brown, Judith Jones Werner, Dianne Eleanor Joubert, James Gordon Benbrook, Sonia Lynn McVay, John David Stewart, Martha Bradford Prince, Merritt Banning Chastain, George Edward Plaxco, Stuart Allen Briscoe, III.

Report of the Dean

Thank you for joining us for the Annual Parish Meeting 2026.

This will mark my 14th year to offer a report at this gathering of our Cathedral parish, and it has been a year filled with transition and opportunity.

I would like to give thanks to our retiring Vestry members –

Karen Hardtner, Chad Hill, Claire Rebouche, Jason Waltman, Warren West. Karen and Jason have served on the Executive Committee of the Vestry, which invites a bit more participation and commitment in terms of time and attention to Cathedral matters. It has been a joy to serve with them, and they have certainly contributed greatly to the life and welfare of our members and our Cathedral.

I would like to thank Lisa Love, Dan Koruna, Patrick Caraway, and John Reeks for their respective service as Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Chancellor. I would also like to thank Ron Roberts, our Treasurer Emeritus, who has been invaluable in helping us with ongoing transitions in our financial department personnel and operations.

These individuals, week in and week out, offer their gifts of discernment, prayer, and dedication to the life we share at St. Mark's. The gift of their time, attention, and counsel in matters pertaining to the health and spiritual growth of our Cathedral are essential.

Please thank our retiring Vestry, our Wardens, and our legal and financial support team when you have an opportunity.

The hands and hearts of perhaps a hundred volunteers keeps the pastoral and liturgical heart of this Cathedral alive. I know that I speak for my colleagues on the Cathedral staff that we are grateful and humbled to work within a community of faithful disciples.

During past Annual Meetings I have mentioned the goals below:

Columbarium – It has been completed with the long and dedicated work of our Wardens, Clarence Babineaux, and Brad Massad with his construction team.

Social Media and Website Presence – Amy Garsee and Priscilla McLean completed this project, and we continue to learn and adapt in this space and continue our journey of illumination and practice in this digital age.

Ministerio Hispano Catedral San Marcos –Jesus and Ellie Bulnes have begun a Sunday service for our Spanish speaking community in Shreveport-Bossier. They gather in a dedicated space in the Ministry Center on Sunday Mornings, and they worship together in the Chapel at 12:30. The service is open to all members of St Mark's and I encourage you to visit.

The Community of the Cross of Nails – Father Paul Martin has taken the lead in the work of this community. They pray every Sunday for healing and the reconciling ministry of Christ in the Chapel prior to our 10.30 service. We are looking forward to a visit from The Reverend Robert Childress on February 7th and 8th as a guest teacher and preacher – offering insights on our parish journey with the Community of the Cross of Nails.

Liturgical Training – In the past few months we have had training meetings with both the Ushers and Worship leader communities. Thanks to Paul Guidry and David Drummond for their help and assistance with the Usher teams. Additional training dates have already been placed on the parish calendar for 2026.

Spirituality and Prayer – Our Anglican spirituality group meets monthly on the Fourth Thursday in the library for those who would like to join.

And finally, the delightful experiences of our "Friendsgiving" following the Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, and our Epiphany celebration. Each were welcome and glorious in their own right.

I also give thanks for our clergy and staff who bring light and joy, as well as faithful resilience and resource, to the ministry that we share in Christ's name. A significant amount of the Dean's time is spent in "riding the fence lines," as well as manning the life boats of the community we share. There is also the regular round of worship which a large parish requires – Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings. There is also the daily attention given to the existential and spiritual journeys of Christ's disciples who worship at St. Mark's. I would estimate that a majority of my time is spent in these neighborhoods, and I am grateful to be a "called" person in this vineyard.

Thoughts and Goals for 2026:

Use of Space:

A full, thorough, and exhaustive inventory of parish goods and items that have reached the climax of their utility within our shared life with the Cathedral School. Old desks, chairs, sofas, recliners; old tables, old lamps, old books and paintings, old magazines, old carpet, old glassware, utensils, microwaves, DVD players, stereos, TV's, potato cannons, etc. The Headmaster, Dylan Deal, along with Lisa Love, Dan Koruna, and our Sexton Mark Deverts, as well as members of the staff, have walked the campus numerous times strategizing about space needs and use. I have walked the campus as well and have decided it is time to begin sorting the wheat from the chaff. I have placed a weekly meeting on my calendar for the foreseeable future to confer with the Headmaster about how best to move forward with our space limitations and opportunities. You may see upcoming announcements to this effect in the coming months.

Stephen Ministry:

Looking ahead, the Stephen Ministry is discerning how best to continue offering pastoral friendship and care to many of our parishioners. The leadership is in the midst of visiting with individuals in whom we have discerned a gift for fellowship and friendship with those who may be facing seasons of grief and struggle. The Stephen Ministry is a significant community within St. Mark's, and I am spending time trying to be helpful to their vision and growth.

I would like to continue cultivating the social and fellowship opportunities for our new and younger members. We have had a few social gatherings the past year, and I anticipate that we will continue in 2026.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve God as a priest of the Church and as Dean of this cathedral.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Blessings and Godspeed,

Alston Johnson

Dean – St Marks

Report of the Senior Warden

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral is a vital, strong and deep resource for our congregation and our wider community. The ministries that begin here reach far into people's lives and hearts. From our beautiful worship services, to our many and varied Bible Studies and groups that nurture spiritual growth, our vibrant youth programs, our continued commitment to outreach in our greater community, the opportunities we provide for fellowship, the positive educational impact of the Cathedral School and the business of maintaining our facility and its business – all are dedicated to doing God's work each day.

To give you a sense of the depth and breadth of these ministries, consider this list: Altar Guild, Ushers and Watchers, Lay Readers, Worship Leaders, Vergers, the Choir, the Oblationers and the Spanish Ministry faithfully serve our many worship services. EfM, Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, Wednesday night Bible Studies, Sunday morning offerings and Youth Bible Studies serve to nurture spiritual growth. The Nursery, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Youth Sunday School, EYC, Children's Choir, Vacation Bible School, Choir Camp, Confirmation, including mentors and retreats, Mission Trips, work days and lock-ins all serve our youth. The Community Ministries Committee, the Cooking Crew, the Stephen Ministry, the Cross of Nails, the Prayer ministry at Shreveport City Council and St. Mark's Cathedral School all serve as outreach to our greater community. Dinners for 8, Wednesday Night Suppers, the Young at Heart Dinner Group, the Hospitality Committee, organizing the Fall Fest, the Easter Egg Hunt and other special meals and events, the Flower Guild and the Bereavement Committee each serve to gather us in fellowship.

Our Clergy and Administrative Staff support and maintain each of these ministries with great care. Dean Alston, Father Thomas and Father Paul nourish us each week with services, sermons, bible studies and personal visits to parishioners and families of parishioners who are sick or hospitalized, seek wedding counseling, baptism, confirmation, funeral services for loved ones or just need to talk. Words do not convey the depth of gratitude for their guidance, support and leadership. A special thanks also to Bess Maxwell, Becky Deverts, Lisa Binham, Mark Deverts, Daniel Bingham, Ora McClinton, Dalton Bijou, Cynthia and Jim Anderson, Priscilla McClean, Amy Garsee, and Ely and Jesus Bulnes for their exceptional and faithful service.

In addition to supporting the ministries of our Cathedral, the 2025 Vestry has been diligent in handling its business concerns. In this regard, we sold the home of our beloved, long-time parishioner, Betty Birmingham. The Cathedral has maintained that home for decades, and we were excited that our very own Organist and Choirmaster, Derrick Meador, was willing and able to purchase it. On another matter, Father Thomas, John Reeks, our Chancellor, and I attended an MPC meeting to speak against a proposed rezoning of some neighboring residential tracts of land which sought to build a 24-hour gas station selling alcohol. Fortunately, the rezoning request was denied unanimously. Members of the Vestry are also leading some newly formed groups, including the Ushers and Watchers which is a combined effort of the two separate groups with an infusion of new members and new ideas. The Vestry also began a Young at Heart Dinner group to gather our younger families in fellowship a few times each year.

Fiscally the Cathedral is strong. This year we moved our Stewardship campaign to October, in order that we could more accurately budget for 2026. During the Stewardship campaign, the lay leaders that spoke over the course of four Sundays were exceptional. Sanders Hearne, Karen Hardtner, Annalisse Harrison and Emma Caraway shared their insights and experiences and lit a beautiful path for giving. While Stewardship is never an easy conversation, it is vital to our individual journeys as well as our journey together. It was a wonderful and successful Stewardship campaign. Many thanks to all who have faithfully pledged, and many thanks to those who will do so.

Speaking of finances, Ron Roberts has been the backbone of our financial department for decades. Ron has performed his services as part of his ministry to the Cathedral for 50 years. We are not letting him retire yet. However, he has asked to take on a more supportive role in this area. There is really no replacing the wealth of knowledge and skill that he has brought to the table. However, we have hired an accountant to begin the process of transitioning some of his knowledge and processes. The accountant that we hired works with 15 other churches and is well versed in non-profit finances. We will also maintain a bookkeeper on staff for all the daily bookkeeping work. As Ron has agreed to "stay on" and work with the accountant, I believe this will be a seamless transition. When you see Ron, please give him a well-deserved thank you for his exceptional and faithful service. We will look forward to celebrating his remarkable ministry at a later date.

It has been an honor to serve you this year as Senior Warden.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Love
Senior Warden

Report of the Junior Warden

The St. Mark's Cathedral Vestry worked throughout 2025 to upgrade and maintain our school and worship facilities. I would like to thank the members of the Vestry, our Sexton, Mark Deverts, our Dean, Alston Johnson, the Senior Warden, Lisa Love, all of the clergy,and the cathedral and school staff members who have worked with me on last year's projects.

Our largest endeavor of 2025 involved the HVAC system. We are currently working with Mechanical Concepts to replace the antiquated control system that we can no longer get parts for. We have also replaced two furnace blower motors that were damaged by a lightening strike.

We discovered a few gaps in our security system so we have added additional cameras with increased capabilities.

We have completed several painting projects this year. We have refinished the exterior oak doors to the Cathedral and the Ministry Center, as well as the wooden outdoor benches. We have also repainted most of the iron handrails and metal fencing around the Garden Room. The parking lot curbs have been repainted and the parking lanes have been re-striped. We also repainted the exterior of the Rectory and reglazed its windows. Several school classrooms were repainted last summer.

Last spring, we opened bidding for new lawn maintenance crews. We selected two companies and were able to save several thousand dollars per year with new contracts. We worked with the Rice and Kindig Law Firm to replace the damaged fence between our properties. We removed several large trees that were damaged or dying in the playground areas. Members of our congregation donated an outdoor bench in honor of Mary Walmsley which was installed in the courtyard.

We have also continued to repair and maintain roofs as needed.

Mark Deverts and Daniel Bingham have continued to replace ceiling tiles and drop-in LED light fixtures in the school as time permits.

We have begun the process of working with Clarence Babineaux at SGB Architects and contractor Brad Massad at Gene Nims Builders to develop plans to replace a large portion of the 70 year old plumbing throughout our facilities.

As Junior Warden, it is an honor to be a part of a long line of people who have built and maintained our magnificent Cathedral.

Respectfully Submitted, Dan
Koruna
Junior Warden

Report of Parish Ministries

2025 was a busy year at St. Mark's Cathedral.

We continued to emphasize parish wide activities this year. We tried to add/ emphasize activities that welcome all of the members of all ages to worship, fellowship and form relationships.
This year's activities included:
January: Epiphany Celebration
March: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
April: Spring Fling
June: Parish Pool Party
August: Pizza, Popsicles & Bingo Wednesday Night Kick off
October: Fall Fest
November: Advent Wreath Night
Friendsgiving

Thank you to everyone that attended and these activities. We are already working on these and more for 2026.

Christian Formation is so important in the lives of our children and our youth. We spent a lot of time this summer meeting with our Sunday school teachers for 4th grade – 12th grade to find out the best ways we can support their Ministry. Thank you to Melissa Flores, Holly, Joni & Matt Woodard, Kelly Rangel, Brandy Griffies & Kathryn Gaiennie for teaching our 4th and 5th grade class. They continue to follow the Whirl Lectionary curriculum. Thank you to Patrick Caraway, Bob Ewing, Bob McVie, Gary Love, Jason Waltman, and Michael Ameen for continuing to teach Youth Sunday School. They continue to follow the curriculum by Ministry to Youth. Each topic is 4 – 6 weeks and cover many things that are important to our youth as they grow in their faith. Some of the topics have been: Friends, Fear, Humility, and Promise.

In September we started digital children's check in on Sunday mornings. We have multiple tablets that are set up for check in. Not only is this helping us to keep accurate records, but it is also helping us form relationships with our families by having a smiling face to welcome all when they arrive.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is continuing to do their good work in the Level 1 and Level 2 Atrium. Thank you to Lisa Love, Laura Grayson Ameen, Leslie Caraway, Liza Johnson, Beth McMurray, Marissa Hill, Lauren Thibodeaux, Jorie O'Brien, Beth McMurray, Sonya Godfrey, Blair Irion, Sarah Drummond, and Lauren Ewing for your work in this very important ministry in the life of our parish. They spent a great week in June continuing their Level 2 training as this ever growing ministry expands.

In March, 17 children and youth participated in Communion Celebration. We spent Saturday morning learning about the sacrament of Communion, followed by a special lunch for the participants and their families. We celebrated this important step in their faith development on Sunday during the 10:30 service.

Our Youth Confirmation program is following the "I Will, With God's Help" curriculum. We were able to teach a class on Sunday afternoons and during the school day for Cathedral School Students. All of the youth confirmands were given a confirmation mentor from the vestry and

came together for a Confirmation retreat held the day before Confirmation. Thank you to Gary Love, Bob McVie, Patrick Caraway and Bob Ewing for teaching our Sunday Confirmation class.

Epic Australian Adventure VBS was a huge success! The entire facility was alive with excitement during that special week. Special thanks to all of our Adult and Youth leaders. We could not have done it without you!

In September we resumed Wednesday night parish dinners along with children and youth activities. Wednesday night dinners are a wonderful time for all of us to fellowship together and build relationships.

September saw more change for the Cooking Crew. Jesus Bulnes took over as the coordinator. Each month the crew prepared over 200 pans of food, which will feed well over 1,600 people. These were distributed to 11 ministries in our community. We provide for all of the Common Ground, Woody's Home for Veterans, Jewel House, Purchased Not for Sale, LSUS Food Pantry, and all of the Community Renewal Friendship houses. During the holiday season we prepared meals for over 1450 including 110 turkeys. Thank you to everyone who contributed turkeys, time and resources to or ministry this year. We are so honored to be able to help these organizations as they extend the hand of Christ to those in our community.

Friendsgiving was a new addition to our calendar this year. A wonderful time of food and fellowship was spent following the Thanksgiving Eucharist. Mark your calendars for 2026. The best part was that we also got to enjoy some of the Cooking Crew's delicious recipes.

Crafts and Conversations began this fall. This is a time for ladies to fellowship and share some of our hobbies, crafts and activities that we love. Watch the calendar for gatherings in the future!

Laura, Sarah and I have been working to make sure our ministries and programing are intentional and supportive to the families in our parish as they raise their children in the Faith. We also hope to be able to expand opportunities that invite all members of our parish (no matter their age) to participate and to form relationships. Be on the lookout for more in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Garse

Report of Children's Ministry

At the start of 2025, Amy, Sarah and I were able to continue our Kids Club programs on Wednesday evenings immediately following the family dinner in the Parish Hall: Club K-2, for grades kindergarten through 1st and Club 345, for grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th. We had about 12 children who participated regularly in these clubs. We followed a series called Walk With Jesus: Learning to Find Our Way With Christ, where the children learned about various stories of Jesus' life and the ways he calls us to follow him in our own lives. Each meeting included fellowship and discussion in the youth room, followed up with a craft/creative activity and play time in the gym. These clubs provide the opportunity for our children that are too old for the nursery to have a time of fellowship while their parents are attending regular Wednesday night classes and activities. We hope this will also begin setting a foundation for future involvement in Youth programs and EYC.

Our Vacation Bible School program this summer was Epic Australian Adventure, an Australian outback theme. Children K3 – 5th were invited to attend, and we used our youth, grades 6th -12th, to volunteer at the event and help lead the children alongside our adults. This program has continued to grow each year and was our largest group yet, with over 120 children attending! We look forward to our 2026 VBS, a Tropical Trek, scheduled for July 13-17!

The Nativity Pageant went well, with over 50 children participating this year! Leslye and members from the choir came in at the tail end of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the Sundays leading up to the pageant to help the children practice the songs. The children did an excellent job and had tons of fun performing.

Additionally, we continued our children's service during the 5:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. Amy and I set up a cozy living room set in the Parish Hall with a fireplace, Christmas trees, and large rugs for the children to sit on. We invited children and any interested parents to attend the service immediately following the second lesson and led them out of the Sanctuary to the Parish Hall. We prayed, sang songs, and listened to Amy's sermon. Everyone received an ornament and a candy cane before returning to their families in the sanctuary.

I look forward to 2026 as we continue to grow and build our children's programs!

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Grayson Ameen

Report of St. Mark's EYC

2025 brought us wonderful growth with our EYC program here at St. Mark's. We started the year as always with faith, fellowship, and fun! EYC hosted the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner where we cooked pancakes for the church community and enjoyed king cake and company! We also helped with the Spring Fling including the Easter egg hunt and fun games for the kids! These were great opportunities for our EYC kids to interact with all members of the church.

During the summer, we organized another successful We Serve Camp. Grades 4-12 participated in a weeklong camp filled with serving local organizations including Maggie's Closet, Providence House, Common Ground, The Hub, Community Renewal, and a cleanup day at the church! This was a wonderful experience for our kids to get out in our own community and help serve hands on!

EYC helped host the Fall Fest that was a huge hit for all of the families of St. Mark's – there was truly something for everyone including bounce houses, fun games, and delicious food!

We are looking forward to 2026 and are always looking for others who feel called to help our youth join our team. We are keeping up with our social media (@smceyc) as well as sending out weekly emails to parents to inform them about upcoming events and encouraging volunteers to provide dinner for our Sunday evening gatherings. We are constantly working to make sure there is always a place for our youth to feel welcome and involved at St. Mark's EYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Wilkes Thompson

Report of Stephen Ministry

The Ministry continues to grow strong. Each of our members has been a very active and committed Care-Giver to those in grief, crisis, transition, or any of the other many life difficulties. The parish has been supportive of this confidential, one-to-one Christian care provided by those who have been especially trained to listen, encourage, and provide quiet emotional and spiritual support. When a potential care-receiver is referred to us, a Stephen Leader interviews each one, and when appropriate, prayerfully pairs each with the care-giver who can best relate to him or her in their particular situation. Care-receivers do not have to be members of this congregation. We continue to be available to the larger community.

The Stephen Ministers meet twice a month to participate in continuing education programs as well as small group peer supervision. This year, we have been fortunate to receive continuing education on the following topics: Updates on the work of the Bridge, Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center; Life and care at Brookdale of Shreveport, Assisted Living facility; Updates on Parkinson's and Alzheimer's patients and the aging brain; Teen and Adult suicide; Social Media, the dangers for children and Parents' options to protect their children. The two peer supervision groups, facilitated by a leader, provide support to each other in their role as Stephen Ministry caregivers.

Michael Schofield led our group on a one-day retreat on the topic of Caring Evangelism, what it is and what it's not, and how do we live and care for our care receivers in such a manner.

Each November, we sponsor a two-hour event entitled "Surviving the Holidays", which provides gentle and caring support to navigate the holidays, having lost a dear loved one in the past year. Participants watch a video presentation, and then engage with a small group for sharing and reflection.

The Stephen Ministers have all spoken of how much this ministry has blessed them! The emphasis on active listening has helped all of us be more present and attentive to others; this has been an unexpected gift! Most have also talked about how this program has helped them in their own spiritual growth and trust in God to lead, guide and work through them, often with amazing results!

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Nsubuga

Report of Music Ministry

Music at Saint Mark's Cathedral continues to thrive and grow. The adult and children's choirs are an integral part our weekly liturgies at Saint Mark's and also serve as an example for music ministry in the Diocese of Western Louisiana. We are very blessed with hard–working and dedicated volunteers, who not only rehearse and sing each week, but also care for each other and those in our congregation and community. I consider it a great honor and blessing to lead this group of musicians and look forward to years of continued musical growth and spiritual development.

Some highlights of 2025 include:

- Choral Evensong with Eucharist sung by all Saint Mark's choirs
- Anthems presented by our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd singers
- Increased enrollment in all ensembles
- "Oh, Jonah!" was presented by music camp participants
- Christmas Lessons and Carols
- East Texas Pipe Organ Festival
- Baroque Artists of Shreveport
- Great Masterpiece Series: James Kealey, organist

If you are looking for new ways to serve at Saint Mark's, please stop by and visit with me about opportunities in the music department.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick Ian Meador

Report of St. Mark's Cathedral Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duties

St. Mark's Cathedral Altar Guild is responsible for all tasks associated with the preparation and maintenance of the altars, as well as setting up all liturgical services. The duties include: procuring all items needed for the liturgical services, clean and have repaired all silver, linens, vestments and altar hangings, arrange for two annual Cathedral clean-up days, maintain the Hargrove (children's) Altar, 2 Catechesis areas, the Little School Altar and provide service set ups for all St. Mark's Cathedral School Eucharists.

Altar Guild Leadership Term – 1 year (Term is June to June)
Directress: Barbara Messier-Villafuerte Asst. Directress: Liz Montelepre
Members: 35 Active 20 Inactive
Trainees: 6

Three Standing Committees:

Wedding Committee – Chair – Cynthia Anderson
Members advise brides of the wedding customs of St. Mark's Cathedral and assist with rehearsals and ceremony.

Flower Committee – Chair – Debbie Hall
Members arrange altar flowers from Sunday services, weddings and funerals and have small arrangements taken to parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes, or homebound.
Memorial Flowers – Coordinated by Sherri Skrivanos

Linen Commettee – Chair - Jane West
Members select linens to be used during each week's services and special services, provide for the washing and ironing of the small pieces. Ora washes and irons the Fair Linens and cover cloths.

Altar Guild Projects 2025
Completion of the Sacristy remodeling project
Purchase of Pewter Eucharistic set for the Hispanic Ministry 12:30 service (Chalice, Paten, 2 bowls, 2 carafes)

Services Performed in 2025

Eucharist	473	Marriages	2
Baptism	16	Funerals/Burials	23
Confirmation	22		

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Messier-Villafuerte
Altar Guild Directress

Report of St. Mark's Cathedral School

I am honored to be able to offer my third annual report as St. Mark's Cathedral School's Head of School. I am still learning so much in my third year, but am certain that this is a school deeply committed to the Episcopal tradition and blessed by its sacred relationship with the Cathedral. Love, truth, hope win the day here. As an extension of our Episcopal identity, the school commits to shepherding young people toward lives of character and purpose. Working together with Dean Alston and his staff near or within this beautiful, transforming space continues to hearten my own spiritual formation. Further, observing our students and their leaders sharing similar experiences makes the journey even richer.

The school remains grateful for the Cathedral clergy and staff for their enduring support, love, and patience. Mark, Daniel, and Ms. Ora are indispensable in helping us run the school daily. Facilitating five chapels a week takes a village and continues to be a central expression of our Episcopal identity. We are lucky to have Rev. Ely Bulnes as our School Chaplain. Ely is ordained in the Disciples of Christ and long served as Associate Pastor of Kings Highway Christian Church. She teaches Christian Education. PS2-Kindergarten Chapels now take place in the Cathedral Chapel on Thursdays, and Lower School, Middle School, and Family Chapel take place in the Cathedral itself on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays respectively. We host All School Chapels (PS3-8th) quarterly, during which students from the Little School sing before the congregation and students from each of the elementary and middle school grades offer petitionary prayers. Chaplain Bulnes leads most Chapels, but Dean Alston, Fr. Thomas, and Amy Garsee preach regularly at Family chapel. We are blessed by the beauty of our worship spaces and by the efforts of the Altar Guild to enhance that beauty, as well as by the musical talents of Assistant Organist Danny Gamble and Organist/Choirmaster Derrick Meador.

We have adopted a new strategic plan for 2025-2030. Below are its highlights:
1. Marketing and Enrollment: Telling our story and sharing the good news about St. Mark's

St. Mark's Cathedral School will demonstrate reasonable growth in enrollment through focused internal and external efforts. We will:

- Assess overall admissions and enrollment management staffing needs
- Continue to improve the way we tell the St. Mark's story
- Assess and implement ways to widen the pool of families who inquire about and visit St. Mark's
- Use a value-narrative survey before Fall 2026
- Expand community partnerships

2. Financial Sustainability: Growing funds and investing in our future

St. Mark's Cathedral School will improve financial operations such that a sufficient surplus is generated to reinvest in programs to grow and enhance the school and satisfy all financial obligations. We will:

- Increase enrollment so that the school generates increased funds to pay for operational expenses with tuition revenues and can once again contribute a portion of the Legacy Fund to cash reserves, a PPRRSM account, or the Endowment
- Grow our endowment to $5 million by 2030
- Identify auxiliary revenue streams and increase revenues from summer programs and related activities
- Create of a multi-year strategic financial plan

3. Curricular Alignment and Enhancement: Building on the past, addressing the needs of the present, and looking to the future

St. Mark's Cathedral School will build upon its tradition of excellence by proactively addressing the changing educational needs of the current generation. We will:

- Vertically align math, science, reading, writing, social studies, and global language in PS, elementary, and middle schools
- Determine how we best transition students to and from each grade
- Determine the best ways to engage AI

St. Mark's remains a member in good standing of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) by whom were accredited last spring. We are also members of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES). Both organizations provide important professional development, consulting, and networking opportunities for our school. This year we have benefited greatly from SAES's professional development opportunities and wise counsel.

The school is governed by a Board of Directors (the School Board), which is appointed by the Vestry. The Dean and Wardens are ex-officio voting members of the School Board. Current parishioners serving on the Board in addition to the Wardens include Craig Storer, Katherine Knicely, Megan Campbell, Kathryn Smitherman, Jennifer Varnadore, Chris Walls, and Jennifer McGimsey. We are so fortunate to have such a committed Board of Trustees and are particularly appreciative of Clayton Dickson, President of the Board, whose tireless efforts galvanize this august group of supporters.

We opened the school year with 334 students enrolled in grades PS 2-8th, 21 more than last year, and we currently have 329, of whom approximately 20% are parishioners. Our smallest grades remain those grades that began school in the years immediately prior to the construction of the Little School. To date, demand for the Little School is high. We are full in PS2 and Kindergarten with a waiting list and anticipate being full in the preschool classes next school year. We also continue to host middle school shadows this year in plans to grow that division. The school has sixty-six full or part-time employees of whom 10 are parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,
Dylan Deal
Headmaster