ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

THE EVANGELIST

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 9 ✠ SEPTEMBER 2026 ✠ WWW.STMARKSCATHEDRAL.NET

Sharing Our Spiritual Lives...with God and Each Other

"The spiritual life of individuals has to be extended both vertically to God and horizontally to other souls; and the more it grows in both directions, the less merely individual and therefore more truly personal it will become." — Evelyn Underhill {1875-1941}

Rev. Alston B. Johnson
alston@stmarkscathedral.net

Dear Friends and Families of St. Mark's,

I hope that you are well at the end of the summer. We have had a very full summer season at St. Mark's with Vacation Bible School, Choir Camp, Camp We Serve, along with Art Camp and summer programming in the Cathedral School. You probably have noticed that we have also renovated bathrooms in the Cathedral and the School, along with other maintenance projects across the campus. We each owe significant thanks to our Wardens, Lisa Love and Dan Koruna, our Vestry and former Vestry members Clarence Babineaux and Brad Massad, for all of the time and attention they have given to these projects.

I have been reminded this summer that so many of the good things that God gives to us are the result of others giving themselves to the work and life we share in Christ. Watching the children and youth spend the mornings together in Vacation Bible School, or singing in the choir, or diligently working on their paintings and art projects, I know that Redwood trees are being planted in young hearts and minds. I know that for every hour that a parent, grandparent, or young friend, spends volunteering within the imaginative and spiritual landscape of our children, it will "bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." *{Mark 4:20}* I know this because I have been the recipient of other's contributions to my own spiritual growth and welfare in Christ from childhood to the present.

The life in Christ that we share at St. Mark's depends upon each of us making a decision to share our lives with God and one another.

Moving into this new year of parish programs and activities, I heartily encourage each Cathedral member and family to find where their "chance" to extend *"both vertically to God and horizontally to other souls"* might live. Perhaps you have wondered what it might be like to sing in the choir; perhaps you have wondered what it might be like to serve the homeless and the hungry; perhaps you have wondered how you might help with the care and preparation of our Eucharists; perhaps you have wondered how to pray more deeply, or understand the depths and heights of scripture; who knows? What is God calling you to do with the life that lies before you?

One of the great delights for me in following Jesus is that the circle of possibilities never closes; drawing closer to

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:00 am, 10:30 am, & 6:00 pm
Sunday Holy Eucharist

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11 — Romans 13:8-14
Psalm 119:33-40 — Matthew 18:15-20

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

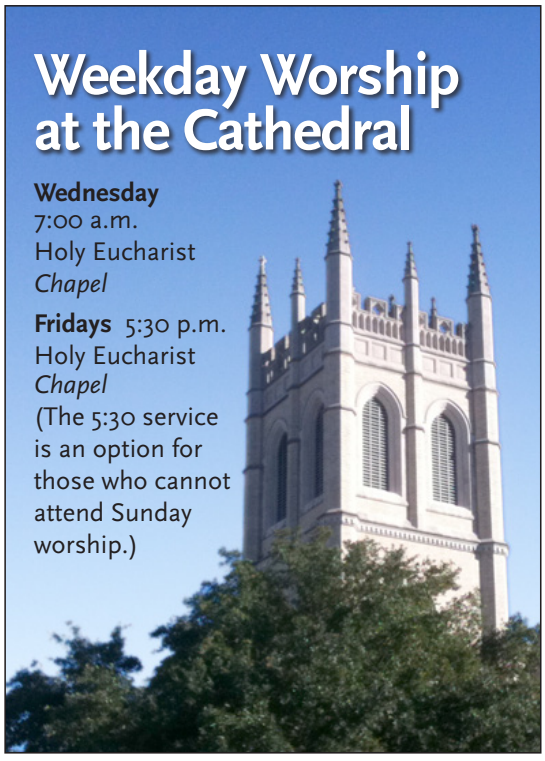
Genesis 50:15-21 — Romans 14:1-12
Psalm 103:8-13 — Matthew 18:21-35

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4 :11 — Philippians 1:21-30
Psalm 145:1-8 — Matthew 20:1-16

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 — Philippians 2:1-13
Psalm 25:1-8 — Matthew 21:23-32



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God means that the revelations of truth, beauty, holiness, and love are a constantly retreating horizon – we never reach the end – we simply keep falling more and more into God's reality. And so, as Evelyn Underhill is saying, we find the truest, "truly personal," versions of ourselves as we give ourselves away to God and other souls. And that is why our Cathedral parish exists – to help each of us discover the mystical beauty of what Jesus means when he says, *"...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...love your neighbor as yourself." {Math. 22:37-39}*

This admonition is not an invitation to live a truncated life; but rather it is an invitation to discover how the divine lies within the temporal. It is an invitation to realize that the life we share in Christ at St. Mark's is only the beginning of a life that actually never ends.

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

"I was in prison, and you visited me." — Matthew 25:36

Over the past months, I have had the blessing of visiting some people in nearby detention centers. That experience has led me to reflect deeply on these words of Jesus, which I would like to share with you:

There are some words of Jesus that we do not only read. We feel them in our hearts.

When Jesus says, "I was in prison, and you visited me," He reminds us that behind every closed door there is a person — a person with a story, a family, fears, hopes, and dreams.

When we visit someone who is in detention, we are not just visiting an immigrant or a person who is detained. We are visiting a human being created in the image of God. And according to the words of Jesus, we are also visiting Him.

When we look into the eyes of someone behind those walls, we can see the face of Christ. When we shake their hand, we may be holding the hand of Jesus. And when we speak words of hope, we may be bringing the light of God to someone who is going through a very difficult time.

Maybe we cannot change their legal situation. Maybe we cannot open the doors or fix all their problems.

But we can open our hearts. We can listen. We can be present. We can pray. And we can remind them that they are not forgotten.

The Gospel calls us to look beyond documents, borders, and circumstances. It calls us to see the person.

And one day, when we stand before Christ, maybe He will not ask us how much we had or how much we accomplished.

Maybe He will simply say:
"I was in prison... and you came to visit me."

May we never forget that when we visit those who are lonely, hurting, and waiting behind a closed door, we are bringing the presence of Christ to a place where He is deeply needed.

Jesús Bulnes, Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

A full-color version of *The Evangelist* is on our website! Go to **https://stmarkscathedral.net/the-evangelist/**

New Creche Created by Long-Time Parishioner

St. Mark's Parishioner George Jackson has been working for weeks to create a new crèche for St. Mark's Nativity scene. And here is a sneak preview!

George built and wove the new crèche, as well as carved a manger, some tiny lanterns and even some farm tools for new and improved birth place of Jesus.

You can see the finished project this Advent in the Cathedral! Thank you George!

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!

Birthday Card Ministry

Last 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**.

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.

Come join a group that rises early to exercise in the mornings with short runs, barbell workouts, and calisthenics.

ST. MARK'S WORK OUT

5:30 - 6:15 am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Necessary equipment onsite.

Call Dean Johnson in the office for more info.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

September 6
The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert (Bobby) Nichols.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of Colby and Shelby Hamilton, Catherine and Elizabeth Corley, and Jack, Will & Ben Murphy.

September 13
The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Lacy H. Williams,Thelma & Jack T. Williams, Evelyn & C.W. Broyles, and Edith & Joe Long.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. James M. Jackson.

September 20
The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clarence & Irene Yancey.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jacquetta Smith Whisner and Lee Morgan, and in honor of Carol S. Clemons, and Mary Helen Yancey.

September 27
The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. Theron Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. W. Curtis Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Bott and Mr. & Mrs. Gordan Urban Sanford.

BIRTHS

Max Montgomery Porter, son of **Jessica & Sam Porter,** on July 23, 2026. Grandparents are **Sarah & Andrew Porter.**

Mae Harper Love, daughter of **Faith &Taylor Love**, on July 26, 2026. Grandparents are **Lisa & Gary Love**

Lucy Elizabeth Morton on August 13, 2026. Parents are **Katie-Beth & Sam Morton**. Grandmother is **Susan Davis.**

BAPTISMS

Madelyn Faith McGimsey, daughter of **Jennifer & Brian McGimsey**, on August 30, 2026.

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

DEATHS

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

Nan Pons Ferguson, sister of **Louise Williams**, on July 16, 2026.

Osme Benedict, on July 31, 2026.

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

Adult Christian Formation

9:30 a.m.

Adult Christian Formation (Begins August 23)

9:30 a.m. **The New Testament – N.T. Wright**
Dean Alston Johnson / *Ministry Center Garden Room*

9:30 a.m. **Experiencing Scripture as a Disciple of Jesus: Reading the Bible like Dallas Willard** https://a.co/d/01FxPdGG
Father Thomas Nsubuga / *Library*

Episcopal Women's Fall Gathering

The Province VII Episcopal Women's Fall Gathering is set for **September 25-27** at **St. James Episcopal Church in Alexandria**. This year's theme is *Grace Upon Grace: Seeking Unity in Difficult Conversation*. Guest speaker is **Dr. Diane Millis**, an author, educator and spiritual director. For more information and to register go to ***https://graceupongrace.rsvpify.com***

Children's Christian Formation

Children's Christian Formation (begins August 23)

9:30 – 12:30 pm Nursery (newborn to K3 - 3 years old by September 30)
First floor of Parish building next to Catechesis Atriums
9:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
First floor of Parish Building- Rooms 105 & 106
Level I Atrium (K-3 – Kindergarten)
Level II Atrium (1st-3rd grade)
9:30– 10:30 am Sunday school (4th – 5th grade)
Second floor of Parish building / old nursery location
9:30– 10:30 am Sunday school (6th-8th grade)
Ministry Center Youth Lounge
9:30 -10:30 am Sunday school (9th-12th grade)
Ministry Center Youth Room

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**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

1
Casey Payne
Lyla Hall
Katy Wagner

2
Knighton Clarke
Charlotte Baldridge
Scott D'Anna
Charlotte Brown

3
Becky Brown
Kelsi Lofton

4
Nick Noble

5
Priscilla McLean
Robert Rembert

6
Carol Crooms
Cara Smith
James Storer

7
Laura-Ashley Overdyke
Kellie Cook
Annabelle Jones

8
Hannah Clarke

9
Ella Poole
Tressie Dickson

10
Lola Herndon
Jason LeBleu
Richard Turnage
Lila Knicely
Jamie Hardtner
Catherine Evans

11
Brown Humphrey
Holden Kowalewski

12
Patsy FitzGerald
Sheryl Ostendorff
Cole O'Neal
Cecilia Hillario
Robert Vanderberg
Thomas Guidry

13
Bill Sanders
Bill Trickett
Debbie Grand
Alice Sample
Jim Martin
Jacki Kennedy
Julie Jacobus

14
Judy Austin
Brooks Glover
Eliza Storer

15
Jackson Reeks
Jennifer Thomas
Robert Jackson
Karrington Carter

16
Gloria Smith
Kathleen Jackson
Reneé Torrans
Brent Weir
Steele Fritze

17
Gayla Hargrove
Elise Patin
Emily Milner
Timothy Coleman

18
Jim Reeves
Jim Anderson
Sarah-Ruth Ponder
Flora Dickson

19
Bill Deupree
Aidan Gilchrist
Hailey Young
Val Irion
Annabelle Wood

20
Caroline Wells
Rex Tamplin
Allie Torrans
Broderick Knox

21
Wyatt Brooks
Cole Cooper
Rebecca Hargrove
Matthew Williams

22
Ellen White
Allison Faloon
Melinda Sprayberry

23
Frances Comegys
Marjorie Hodges
Nathan Marak
Jeremy Knicely

24
Catherine Dickson
Dez Hill
Gloria Powers
Cece Parker
Becky Deverts

25
John Prince
Ryan Herrington
Rowan Arnold
Chandler Weir
Mason Allen
Harrison Hilario
Jake Noble
Stephen Burnett

26
Cindy Jones
Missie Poindexter
James Stroud
Kathleen Hill
Liam O'Brien

27
Cheryl Foster
Ashley Sutton
Field Baber
Mary Yancey

28
Landry Reeks
John Paschall

29
Gigi Corley
Adriana Beruvides
Roger Kalmbach

30
Jim Mitchell
MaryElla Crawford
Kathryn White
Emma Fargerson
Ashely Davis

Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

Lisa Love, Senior Warden – Dan Koruna, Junior Warden – Patrick Caraway, Treasurer – John Reeks, Chancellor

2026	2027	2028	2029
David Drummond	Michael Ameen	Lloyd Brown	Megan Campbell
Paul Guidry	Erin Dicharry	Matt Coady	Ginny Murphy
Val Irion	Catherine Evans	Jonathan Davis	Clay Nelson
Reid Jones	Kathryn Gaiennie	Laura Ashley Overdyke	Dee Peterson
John Turnage	Stephen Kneip	Adam West	Matthew Smitherman

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

The Very Rev. Alston Johnson
(Dean)
abjohnson@stmarkscathedral.net

The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga
(Sub-Dean)
thomas@stmarkscathedral.net

The Rev. Paul Martin (Priest Associate)
paul@stmarkscathedral.net

Jesus Bulnes
(Hispanic Ministry Coordinator)
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Ely Bulnes (School Chaplain)
ebulnes@smc.school

Derrick Meador
(Organist and Choirmaster)
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Amy Garsee
(Director of Youth and Parish Ministries)
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Lisa Bingham (Financial Office Manager)
lisa@stmarkscathedral.net

Bess Maxwell (Administrative Assistant)
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Priscilla McLean (Calendaring)
priscilla@stmarkscathedral.net

Beth Reeks
(Minister for Pre-K Children's Programs)
preschool.beth@gmail.com

Caroline Reeks
(Assistant Director of Parish Ministries)
caroline@stmarkscathedral.net

Willie Jackson (Attaché to the Dean)
willie@stmarkscathedral.net

Mark Deverts (Sexton)
mark@stmarkscathedral.net

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