A Monthly Magazine The The St. MARK'S CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARK'S ATHEDRAL OF ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARK

The Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

The Rev. J. Wesley Evans

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Sherman, TX (Printed by permission of The Anglican Digest)

Through High School, I was in band. I played trumpet, though I wasn't very good at it, and enjoyed the chance to learn music. I even attended band camp for several summers. However, after graduation, I never did pick it back up, and have since lost most of my ability. There is an old saying, "use it or lose it," and just like I slowly "got rusty" on trumpet, so we probably all know how true that saying is in one context or another. In the parable of the talents, Jesus is working from another such common human experience. I'm sure we've all experienced the loss of some skill or material object through neglect. Jesus is essentially saying, use it or lose it!

Here, Jesus presents three servants of a master who is about to go on a journey, and how each responds to what was entrusted to them. To each the master gives an amount of talents; five, two, and one. Not an equal amount, but one likely related to their ability and responsibility. This was actually a lot of money! A single talent was worth about six thousand Denarii, with one Denarius being an average days' wage. For comparison, Texas minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour and, assuming an eight-hour day, a day's wage would be about \$58. A single talent would be \$348,000, with the five talents given to the first servant being worth around \$1.74 million! The point is that the master is not giving them a small responsibility; they are to watch over a vast estate until his return.

Eventually, the master does return, and he demands an accounting of how well his servants took care of his estate while he was gone. The first and second servants both used the master's property wisely and made more with it; as a result of their wise stewardship, they are put in charge of more. Two things are of note here: First, both are praised equally. It's not an absolute value that concerns the master, but instead the proper attitude. Both wise servants understood the important principal of stewardship: What they had been given did not belong to them. Second, the reward for their efforts wasn't a personal benefit, but more responsibility. Both wisely took care of what rightfully belonged to the master and, as a reward, were given greater responsibility. Those who serve God well are not rewarded with personal blessings — there is no promise of health or wealth or personal benefit; instead, those who serve him well are given more opportunities to serve. The only reward being, as Jesus says, to enter into the joy of the Master.

But the wicked servant illustrates the opposite. Instead of caring for what belonged to the master, he forgot the rightful owner and believed he had a right of ownership. He accuses the master of being a harsh man who essentially takes what isn't his — yet of course the talents belonged to the master, not the servant! Instead of stewardship, the wicked servant thought of it as ownership; thus believing he had a right to what he made from the talent given. It was all about the "I" for him: I earned this, I deserve, I knew you would take it. He was, in a phrase, focused not on the master, but on himself and his own desires. Therefore, the punishment of the master is simple: What little responsibility he had been given will now be taken from him and given to someone else who understands how to be a steward and custodian of what belongs to the master.

This parable was given right after the parable of the ten virgins *(Matthew 25:1-12)*, and so is connected to the same teaching of the day when Jesus will return for us, his Church, when we will give an account of our lives. What we think is ours — our success, our wealth, our intelligence, our abilities, our time, our money, our desires — doesn't actually belong to us. We are merely stewards who will have to give an accounting when our Master returns. As we pray in the Eucharist, we give to God "ourselves, our souls and bodies" — therefore, even those are rightfully not just ours to do with as we please, but rather a responsibility given by God for a higher purpose. Our reward will be to enter into the joy of our Master, and perhaps to be given greater responsibility over what belongs to him. All things are given by him, and it's of his own that we give back.

St. Tomas Aquinas wisely talked about all of creation having a

(continued on page 2)



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm Sunday Holy Eucharist Holy Unction offered at 8:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm 5:30 pm Friday Holy Eucharist (uses the Sunday Propers)

NOVEMBER 4, 2018 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints Sunday

Wisdom 3:1-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21:106a John 11:32-44

NOVEMBER 11, 2018 The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Baptism

1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12 :38-44

NOVEMBER 18, 2018 The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

NOVEMBER 25, 2018 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Weekday Worship at the Cathedral

Weekdays except Wednesdays: 7:00 *a.m.* Morning Prayer

Wednesdays: 7:00 *a.m.* Holy Eucharist

Fridays: Noon Holy Eucharist & Healing service 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

(The 5:30 service is an option for those who cannot attend Sunday worship.)

(continued from page 1)

purpose. All things have a final end, and ultimately the end of all ends is God: the Good, True, and Beautiful. Our abilities to make art, or write, or work, or play, or excel, or succeed, are not given for our glory but for the purpose of God's glory. Our success doesn't exist for itself but for that purpose, for we are mere stewards of all those things we have or have accomplished. Someday our Master will return. And when he does, he will demand an account of our life: Did we use it for his glory and the gospel, or did we use it for our own selfish purposes? Did we give to God of what was his, or did we act as if we had sole ownership? Did we go into the market place of the world, take risks for Jesus our Lord, and receive a return on his investment in us, or did we hoard what we had and bury his gifts in the ground? May the Lord find us at his second coming to have been faithful stewards of what was his, and may we then enter into the joy of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ.



By the Grace of God and the Consent of the People

The Rt. Reverend Jacob W. Owensby IV Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana

will ordain

Russell Brooks Boylan, Jr.

to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Saturday, the Twenty Fourth of November In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eighteen at Ten O'Clock in the Morning

> St. James Episcopal Church 1620 Murray Street Alexandria, LA 71301

Your prayers and presence are requested

Reception follows

Clergy: Red Stole

A full-color version of The Evangelist is on our website! Go to "About Us," then "News."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Harrison Smith Jennifer Cooper Lex Childs 2 Shelton Floyd Stella Walker Greg Anderson John Stewart Slack

November 1

Louise Williams

Jack Gilchrist Charles Hardtner

3 Cody Mayo Selby Moss Ryan Campbell

4 Lauren Barnett

5 Sherry Pendley Chris Stage Lauren Dulaney Frances Smitherman 6 Sally Byrd Bud Westmoreland Olivia Bradley Craig Storer Ellen Blanchard Ashley Coleman Casey Risher Anne Parsiola

8 David Billingsley Peggy Newell Norbert Kane Will Sibley Sarah Wagner 9 Liz Drake Randy Smith Joe Milner Beck Schwab

Joyce Murphy Peggy Lyons Shari Crowder Cheryl Hollingsworth

JoAnn Wheless Martine Lattier Laurel Brightwell Lori Cheramie Arianne Graves 12 Hope Prince Gordon Clingan John Scheel Elizabeth Holtsclaw Peyton Hall

Janet Barlow Brenda Petitt Gretchen Reeks Barron O'Neal, Jr.

14 Brenda Midyett Bart Wagner Jim David Jessica Lee

15 Joy Rabalais Isabella Jump Katherine Jump Theiler Van Norman

16 David Bieler Molly Bryan Janis Teague Joey Ourso William Bennett

17 Susan Davis Caitlin Coley

18 Georgia Cook Lisa Miller 19 Charlotte Ivey Tom Ostendorff Donna Howell Sarah King 20 Angela Glover Shawn Holmes

Shawn Holmes Mary Lou Bylsma

21 Alice Frazier Deane James Jerry Davis Seth Harrison Abigail Koruna Kellum Humphrey Hector Negron

22

Daisy Kime Susan Boutte Jonathan Evans Blake Jackson Isabella Wise

23 Bess Maxwell Susie Crichton Susan Perkins Patrick White Cason Cooper 24 Glenn Langley Anna Marsalis Landry Jones 25

Molly McInnis 26 Henry Hearne Bill Hall Riley Waddell

27 Lacy Williams John Stroud

28 Allison Lockhar Ethan Courtman Mary White

29 Knox Goodman Pam Nichols Michele Cook Moly Duncan

30 William Weaver Carmen Mijalis Lindsey Anderson John Peterson

Hope House Needs You!

You are invited to assist Hope House with donations. We need men's socks and boxer shorts, cold medicine, cough drops, paper towels. AAA batteries, coffee, creamer and plastic spoons.

A box will be placed near the church office for all donations!





The Shreveport-Bossier Nativity Celebration runs

from Nov. 24th through Dec. 2nd. It is a public display featuring hundreds of nativity sets from around the world hosted at the LDS Church on 200 Carroll St. St. Mark's EYC has been invited to host a scavenger hunt with prizes on the evening of November 28 for youth groups from several churches in the Shreveport-Bossier area. Please contact **Drew@stmarkscathedral.net** with any questions.





Follow St. Mark's EYC on



MiddleSchool@episcoposse HighSchool@smceyc

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Morning

Middle School Group Time with Fr. Drew and Sarah Wilkes: 9:30-10:15 AM @ Youth Room in Ministry Center

EYC Evenings

Dinner, Group Activity, & Worship 5:45-7:30PM @ Ministry Center (every Sunday unless otherwise noted on the EYC schedule)

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

Wednesdays

High School Bible Study 5:30-7PM @ Ministry Center Room 101

Fridays

BREAKFAST w/ Clergy & EYC High Schoolers 6:45-7:30AM @ Julie Anne's

UPCOMING EYC EVENTS:

11/17 – Cleaning & Organizing @ Fuller Center 9AM-12PM (Service Hour Opportunity for High Schoolers)

11/18 – Toby Mac Concert @ Municipal 7pm (Open to all EYC Middle + High Schoolers)

12/15 – Christmas Gift Wrapping @ Fuller Center 9AM-1PM (Open to All Ages, in twohour shifts. Please contact Drew to schedule which shift you would like)

UPCOMING TRIPS:

Spring Break Trip to Mo-Ranch March 24th-29th, 2019 Open to all EYC High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers

Sewanee Debate Camp

July 16th-24th, 2019 For those entering 9th through 12th Grades in Fall, 2019

LOOK FOR THE EYC NEWSLETTER AND SCHEDULE TO BE MAILED THIS MONTH. Please contact Drew at **Drew@stmarkscathedral.net** with any questions

Adult Christian Formation

Young Adults Class

9:30 am "Growing in Grace," studying the book <u>Grace Based</u> <u>Parenting</u> by Dr. Tim Kimmel *Ministry Center Garden Room*

Foundations of Apologetics

Taught by Dean Alston Johnson Ministry Center Room 101



Children's Christian Formation

9:15 a.m. – 12:30 pm Nursery (newborn to K3 - 3 years old by Sept. 30th) First floor of Parish building next to Catechesis

Atriums

9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday School (4th – 5th grade) Second floor of Parish building in the old nursery location

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Atrium Level II (Grades 1-3) First floor of Parish building

9:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (K-3 – Kindergarten) First floor of Parish Building - Rooms 105 & 106

10:30 am Children's Chapel (1st – 5th grade) Second floor of Parish building in the old nursery location

Questions or concerns please contact Caroline Reeks caroline@ stmarkscathedral.net 318-221-3360 ext. 4065

All Saints Service

Join us for our annual **All Saints' Day** service at the beautiful and historic All Saints' Chapel at Stonewall on **Sunday**, **November 4 at 3:00 p.m.** Dean Alston will lead us in Holy Eucharist.



3276) Stonewall-Frierson Rd (3276) Stonewall-Frierson Rd (3276)

All Saints Chapel

(3276)

The Laying On of Hands and Anointing

The Rev. Dr. Rowena White rowena@stmarkscathedral.net

This sacrament, also called Unction, is available for healing in the chapel each Sunday morning at both services.

Pastoral Care ministers are also available for a different purpose: they will listen to your specific prayer requests and pray with you for yourself or for another. Unction, on the other hand, is a sacrament administered only by a priest directly to the one in need. After taking Holy Eucharist, one simply goes to the chapel and kneels. The priest then uses special oil that has been blessed by the bishop for that purpose, to make the sign of the cross on the forehead while laying hands on the head. Typically one of the prayers on page 456 of the Book of Common Prayer is said. The prayers are for healing of the body, the mind and the spirit. Thus they are prayers for hope and strength, for the healing of strained or broken relationships (with self or others) and for the renewal of one's spirits. Simply speaking, they are prayers for restoring one to wholeness by the grace of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the dissolution of all that gets in the way of our taking in God's great love for us, so that we can more joyfully love God and others.

Even in our hopes for physical healing, we understand that the prayer for healing is a prayer for wholeness that may or may not result in a physical cure. It is appropriate for one to come for anointing before any surgery or other life crisis. One of our priests is also available to visit you in the hospital, or at home to anoint and pray with you. Certainly when one is known to be approaching death, a priest should be called to administer Last Rites, which may include Scripture, Unction, Absolution and Holy Communion. This spiritual preparation is comforting to the family and friends gathered, as well as reassuring the dying of the very presence of God in their transition from this life to the next. We acknowledge that they are soon to be welcomed, "not as a stranger, nor a guest, but as a child at home!"* Often the well-loved Psalm 23 is read, with emphasis on the last verses: "You anoint my head with oil...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever!"

Be sure your family knows that you want to receive the special grace of this Sacrament!

*Hymn #664, based on Psalm 23



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

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.



This Month's Ale & the Almighty...

The next Ale & the Almighty will take place on **Tuesday, Nov. 13th 7-9PM @ Frank's Napoletana Pizza.** St. Mark's member Dr. Sanders Hearne will

lead a discussion on things that can help us on our spiritual journey and a talk a little about his own walk in faith. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date! Lessons and Carols December 16

Cathedral School News

By Chris Carter ccarter@stmarksschool.com

Thank you to all the parishioners who participated in the school's recent Strategic Planning Survey. Fr. David Madison, Executive Director of SAES, spent a weekend at St. Mark's last month and reviewed the survey results, along with national and regional trends in Episcopal schools, as part of our Strategic Planning Retreat. The School Board will use the information from the survey and the presentation of trends to establish strategic priorities for the next three years. It was very helpful to have the parishioners share their experiences and insights on the survey and to use those responses for our planning.

Did you know that every guarter at least one of our Middle School Chapel services is organized and conducted by students? All students take Christian Education daily for one quarter, and each class plans and leads one Chapel. Last month the 6th grade led a Chapel that integrated materials from the Sandy Hook Promise Program, "It Starts with Hello." Students chose scripture readings that emphasized valuing and including others and then gave a talk and created a short activity to emphasize the importance of preventing social isolation. Our 8th grade Christian Education class led a Chapel that reflected on our year-long theme of "Unity" and what they learned about sharing resources from their retreat at Heifer Ranch. The opportunity to lead worship and to offer a message to their own peers can have a powerful effect on our students and is an important part of the spiritual formation that our school offers. I look forward to the student-led chapels of this coming quarter!

Choral Evensong

Services of Choral Evensong will be held on the following dates at 5:15 pm:

November 11

November 15 (Thursday Evensong for East Texas Organ Festival, 5pm) November 18

Harlem Globetrotters

The St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir has been invited to sing the National Anthem at the opening of the performance of the Harlem Globetrotters at CenturyLink Center in Bossier City on November 27, 2018 at 7:00pm. Tickets can be purchased at a discount by contacting The Harlem Globetrotters at bynun@ harlemglobetrotters.com or call 678-497-1869. Please contact Canon Bryan Mitnaul at 318.226.4034 if you have any questions or require additional information.





Online Price		Your Price	
\$	94.00	\$	94.00
\$	59.00	\$	59.00
\$	39.00	\$	32.00
\$	34.00	\$	26.00
\$	29.00	\$	23.00

tickets and seat locations are subject to availability. Tickets must be purchased in advance by mail, phone, email or fax. Orders will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. No refunds or exchanges. Children under 2 do not require a ticket provided they sit on adult's lap.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

November 4

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of 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 Thomas Everett Strain, Jr. and in honor of Stephen Richard Yancey, III.

November 11

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Staunton Brevard Sample, Helen Sample Rickenbacker, Guy Brevard Sample, Camille Chappell Sample, Philip Key Sample, and John Vance Huckins.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Chandler, Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Harman, Mr. & Mrs. Cade C. Havard, and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Havard.

November 18

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Eustis Eversull, Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Benjamin Popwell, Donald Earnest Ameen, and in thanksgiving for the marriage of Julia Anne Popwell and James Dunn Ameen.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of M. Carl Jones, James Marshall Jones, Joan Coughlin Jones, Delmar R. Thompson, and Frances Ball Jones.

November 25

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Peter Gaffney.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Stewart McConnell Wilson, and Mr. & Mrs. Ira Vernon Hastings, Sr.

BAPTISMS

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

Jackson Jacob Peterson, son of Leigh Anne & Robert Peterson, on October 21, 2018.

WEDDINGS

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

Thomas Clay Gaiennie & Sarah Jean O'Rourke on September 29, 2018.

Samuel Pearce Byrd & Stephanee Nicole Hooper, on October 6, 2018.



Change Those Clocks!

Don't forget! Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday, November 4**. Make sure you set your clocks BACK one hour when you go to bed Saturday night, November 3.

Calling All Turkeys!

Amazingly, it's that time again! The Cooking Crew is in need of 30 turkeys to cook for Thanksgiving meals (and later another 30 for Christmas). Please drop off your turkeys to the church kitchen before November 9. If you have any questions or would like to help cook for the holidays, Jennifer Beruvides at jennifer@ stmarkscathedral.net.





Christmas Memorials

It is the custom at St. Mark's to invite the parish family at Christmas to make a contribution to the glory of God and in memory or honor of loved ones. This is not only an appropriate way to honor those who have gone before us, but these gifts make it possible to decorate the Cathedral in a festive manner. If you wish to make a memorial, please send your donation, along with the name or names of those to be honored, to the attention of **Becky Deverts**, no later than **Friday, December 7**.





Thanksgiving Day Service

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 22 for our Thanksgiving Day Eucharist.

Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

The Church building and office will be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for Thanksgiving.



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 **Bonnie Dubin** at **bdubin@wkhs.com**



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!

St. Mark's Cathedral (Episcopal)

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The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga (Sub-Dean)

2018

(Dean)

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Amy Lewis

Kevin Payne

Darrell Rebouché

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby

(Bishop of Western Louisiana)

bishopjake@diocesewla.org

The Very Rev. Alston Johnson

The Rev. Dr. Rowena White

rowena@stmarkscathedral.net

The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter

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(Canon)

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Becky Deverts (Financial Office Manager)

2019

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2021

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

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Debbie Hall

Brandy Griffes

Carol Anne Caraway

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