

A Monthly Magazine

September 2018 • Volume 58 • Issue 8

# The Evangelist

ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

[www.stmarkscathedral.net](http://www.stmarkscathedral.net)

## Choir Trip to the United Kingdom

The St. Mark's Choirs have just returned from a fabulous 9-day performance tour of the United Kingdom. There were 49 people on the tour, including 14 children from The St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir. The choirs sang services at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge; Guildford Cathedral; and Salisbury Cathedral, and were hailed as being the finest American choir that has performed at these locations in many years! In addition to musical obligations, those on the tour visited Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, Covent Garden, St. John's College, Oxford University, King's College, Cambridge, The Tower Bridge and Stonehenge.

Many thanks to the St. Mark's members who contributed funds to offset the cost of this trip. Without your help many of the young choristers would not have been able to participate in this life changing experience.



Photo: Suzanne Williams

*To love and serve Christ. To love and serve one another in Christ. To love and serve the world for Christ.*



### 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)

### SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

#### *The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 4 :1-2, 6-9

James 1 :17-27

Psalms 15

Mark 7 :1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

#### *The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 35 :4-7a

James 2 :1-10, 14-17

Psalms 146

Mark 7 :24-37

### SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

#### *The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Baptism

Isaiah 50:4-9a

James 3 :1-12

Psalms 116:1-8

Mark 8:27-38

### SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

#### *The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 11:18-20

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Psalms 54

Mark 9:30-37

### SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

#### *The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

James 5:13-20

Psalms 19:7-14

Mark 9:38-50

## Reading Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are to support the reading success of third-grade students in Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, and Webster Parish schools. Last year more than 2,100 Northwest Louisiana 3rd grade students were not proficient readers. Third grade is a critical year when children transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade is one of the most important predictors of future academic achievement, high school graduation, and career success. Literacy disparities during the early grades are linked to persistent achievement gaps. Students who are not reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers. You can help by volunteering to read with students during the school year. Times, locations, and days are determined by the volunteer and school for best convenience. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/LiteracyVolunteerInfo> or contact Lou Papai, Third Grade Reading Project Coordinator at [LouisPapai001@gmail.com](mailto:LouisPapai001@gmail.com) or call 260.437.8664.

# 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.)*



## 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](mailto:bdubin@wkhs.com)

# Yoga

- Traditional Hatha Yoga (all levels)
- Every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning March 1
- 8:15am - 9:15am
- Garden Room
- Cost: Free
- Bring your yoga mat and a change of clothes for traversing the building

St. Mark's Cathedral  
908 Rutherford  
Garden Room, Ministry Center

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



## Celebration of Women's Ministries at Camp Hardtner

A Diocesan Celebration of

Women's Ministries is set for Camp Hardtner September 21 and 22.

This is a time for numerous and diverse ministries to come together and celebrate in the name of our Lord and Savior. The ministries of the Diocesan Daughters of the King, Diocesan Episcopal Church Women and Altar Guilds are invited and guest speaker will be the Rev. Christie Fleming of Christ Episcopal Church in Bastrop. Spiritual Direction will be provided by the Rev. Rowena White of St. Mark's.

The weekend begins on Friday evening and runs through Saturday. Cost is \$75 for the entire weekend or \$25 for Saturday only.

For more information contact Rowena White in the Cathedral office or Shetwan Roberison at 318-707-2570.



We thank all of you who came out and had a fun time for August's session. This month's Ale & the Almighty will be from 7-9pm on Tuesday, September 18th at the Twisted Root located at 8690 Line Ave, Shreveport. This session is titled "Spiritual Food" and will be led by Blake Jackson. We hope to see y'all there! Please contact **Drew at [Drew@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:Drew@stmarkscathedral.net)** with any questions.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### September 1

Joe Henry  
Katy Wagner  
Lyla Hall

2

Scott D'Anna  
Knighton Clarke  
Charlotte Baldrige

3

Dorothy Hilliard  
Becky Brown  
Kelsi Lofton

4

Judy Malone  
Nick Noble

5

Marilyn Davis  
Vernon Hastings  
Priscilla McLean  
Robert Rembert

6

Steve Skrivanos  
Carol Crooms  
Cara Smith  
James Storer

7

Laura-Ashley Overdyke  
Kelli Cook  
Annabelle Jones

8

Pat Beaird

Bobby Nichols

Eydie Comeaux  
Hannah Clarke

9

Ella Poole

10

Anne Frantom  
Lola Hearndon  
Jason Le Bleu  
Jamie Hardtner  
Catherine Evans  
Lila Knicely

11

Mary Harter  
Brown Humphrey  
Caroline Murphy  
Holden Kowalewski

12

Patsy FitzGerald  
Sheryl Ostendorff  
Cole O'Neal

13

Bill Sanders  
Julia Jacobus  
Debbie Grand  
Bill Trickett

Jim Martin

Jacki Kennedy  
Angie Waltman  
Alice Sample

14

Judy Austin

Eliza Storer

15

Betty Birmingham  
Robert Jackson  
Jennifer Thomas  
Jackson Reeks

16

Gloria Smith  
Kathleen Jackson  
Renee Torrans  
Brent Weir

17

Fred Plitt  
James Moreland  
Elise Patin  
Gayla Hargrove  
Emily Milner

18

Jim Anderson  
Jim Reeves  
Darcy Pavlick  
Sarah-Ruth Ponder

19

Kenneth Maher  
Hailey Young  
Val Irion  
Aidan Gilchrist

20

Wayne Crank  
Rex Tamplin  
Allie Torrans

21

Frances Wilson  
Rebecca Hargrove  
Matthew Williams  
Wyatt Brooks  
Cole Cooper

22

Melinda Sprayberry  
Ellen White  
Allison Falloon  
Holly Smith  
Grace Crooms

23

Frances Comegys  
Todd Blanchard  
Catherine Dickson  
Jeremy Knicely

24

Russ Van Norman  
Dez Hill  
Gloria Powers  
Cece Parker

25

Sandy Benedict  
John Prince, III  
Jake Noble  
Ryan Herrington  
Chandler Weir  
Mason Allen  
Rowan Arnold

26

Cindy Jones

Missie Soignier

James Stroud  
Jack Turnage  
Kathleen Hill

27

Cheryl Foster  
Ashley Sutton

28

Harriet Destiche  
John Passchall  
Landy Reeks

29

Gigi Corley  
Roger Kalmbach  
Adriana Beruvides

30

Sally Fleming  
Kathryn White  
Emma Fargerson  
Mary Ella Crawford



## Grace to You and Peace from God,

Summer has flown by, and Fall is already among us! I hope you all had a great summer. My summer went well (adjusting to the heat as well as anyone from Michigan can). On an exciting note, we had a great youth meeting with Dean Johnson and several of our High Schoolers in July where we got the ball rolling on what the High Schoolers want to see, experience, and get out of St. Mark's EYC program, and ultimately, what they are going to give into the program.

A lot of the discussion at the meeting centered around the possibilities of travel that we can do as group, including the possibility of some international trips by 2020. The Dean noted, "It was clear in our discussion that there is a nearness to God that we feel when we leave our well-worn paths of home, school, and schedule."

We also discussed the marketing issue that we have been having with EYC and the sense that people have been feeling out of the loop. We are seeking to remedy it by getting two of our very Instagram-savvy High Schoolers to manage a new social media account for our EYC High School group. ("Episcoposse" will still serve as our Middle School EYC Instagram. A link to the new High School account in the works is available through there.) We will also be looking into getting Youth Announcements kiosk in the back of the Sanctuary with announcements on it, and starting this month, publishing and mailing out a monthly EYC newsletter along with a two-month calendar.

Lastly I'll mention, we gave the High Schoolers who attended this meeting some important leadership roles. We now have an intermural athletics liaison, a communications director, a worship coordinator, among other roles. Full notes of the meeting are available to read at [stmarkscathedral.net/youth](http://stmarkscathedral.net/youth)

As we approach the beginning of a year of school for "EYC-ers" in both High School and Middle School, we look forward to new beginnings and opportunities. This Fall, I am greatly interested in keeping the High Schoolers engaged through weekly. For me especially, high school years were a time of rapid growth and challenge, happy times and frustrating times. Things like success versus failure and making life decisions always seemed to be pressing. It was also a time where I focused on finding and discovering my own unique gifts. It was an opportune time to grow in my faith and to grow in my understanding of both God and the world. We at St. Mark's want to provide an environment for that to happen for High Schoolers.

We are planning some fun days on Saturdays, and trips away from Shreveport, and we need your help in this- regular attendance and your commitment will be an indicator of our ability to take such trips. Our trips away will be primarily open to those involved on a weekly basis; we will then open the trips to others based on first come – first serve. We trust that our families will understand our need for appropriate expectations of participations.

I look forward to a new year here at St. Mark's Cathedral. I have had such a great time getting to know many families and look forward to getting to know even more. We have a lot to look forward to!

Blessings,  
Rev. Deacon Andrew L. Christiansen  
Curate

## FALL SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

### Morning

Middle School "Group": 9:30-10:15 AM  
led by Fr. Drew and Sarah Wilkes and  
High Schooler leaders @ Ministry Center

### EYC Sunday Evenings

Dinner, "Group," and Worship  
5:45-7:15pm  
High School and Middle School  
(in separate groups)



### FALL FRIDAYS

BREAKFAST with Clergy and  
EYC High Schoolers  
@ JULIE ANNE'S Bakery & Café, 6:30 AM  
provided by St. Mark's  
**Come check in every week, eat free food,  
and hang out.**

## EYC FALL LOCAL EVENTS:

Saturday, September 1st:  
Tube and Swim @ Yacht Club 3:00p.m.  
\*for EYC High Schoolers and Middle  
Schoolers

Saturday, September 8th: Capture the Flag  
\*for EYC High Schoolers 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 27th: Corn Maze Trip  
\*for EYC High Schoolers Time TBA

## UPCOMING EYC TRIPS:

**Fall Break Trip to Buffalo River** –  
Camping & Canoeing  
\*for EYC High Schoolers  
Oct. 12th-14th (leaving the 11th)

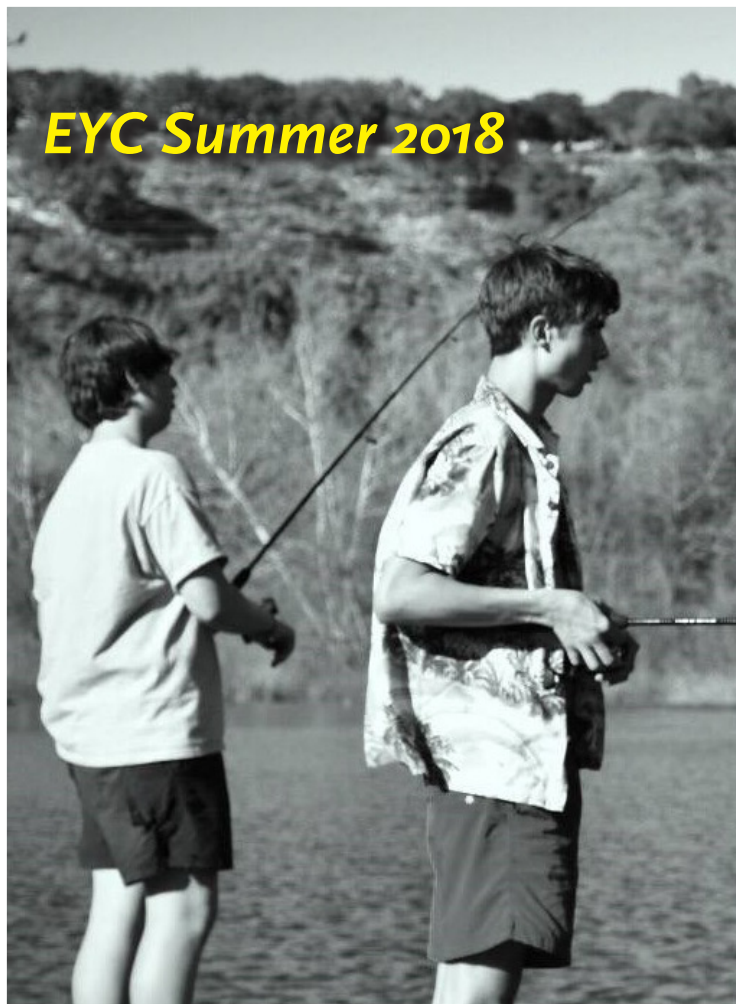
**Spring Break Trip to Mo-Ranch**  
\*for EYC High Schoolers and Middle  
Schoolers  
March 24th-29th, 2019

**Sewanee Debate Camp** – July 16th-24th, 2019  
\*For those entering 9th through 12th Grades in  
Fall, 2019

**2019 Summer Trip to Houston** – Service  
Project with Christ Church Cathedral  
\*for EYC High Schoolers and Middle  
Schoolers. More information to come!

LOOK FOR THE EYC NEWSLETTER AND  
SCHEDULE TO BE MAILED THIS MONTH.  
Please contact Drew at [Drew@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:Drew@stmarkscathedral.net)  
with any questions





## EYC Summer 2018

### Children's Christian Formation

**9:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm Nursery**  
(newborn to K3 - 3 years old by September 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

### Adult Christian Formation

**9:30 am**  
“**Growing in Grace,**” studying the book Grace Based Parenting by Dr. Tim Kimmel  
Ministry Center Garden Room

**Old Testament Prophets**  
Taught by Dean Alston Johnson  
Ministry Center Room 101

### Pilgrim Course/Inquirer's Class

I believe that Christian Discipleship is perhaps the greatest adventure that any one of us might take in life. We often reserve that sense of high calling to our careers, our leisure, our romantic prospects, the lives we build for our children; but I believe that there is no more exciting place to be than to consciously place ourselves into the hands of the living God. My own journey, and the time I spend with others, tells me that this is actually what every human soul is searching for in life; that place where we may rest in God's hands, knowing that the carver is shaping the wood.

In the Fall we will begin a program that has taken root in England and now the United States; The Pilgrim Course - <http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/>

The Pilgrim Course is meant to meet folks at the “ground zero” of their sense of belief in God and faith. It seeks to equip people to become followers of Jesus Christ in all corners of their lives. It is built from Scripture, and draws inspiration and teaching from the Ancient Church. In short, it is an invitation to deeper discipleship. We will begin with Book 1 “Turning

to Christ” as we join with others in seeking to answer the question – “What do Christians believe?”

The Pilgrim Course is for anyone who would like to visit the foundations of the Christian faith. This course will also serve as our Inquirers class at St Marks. Perhaps you are living through a season of life where revisiting the sources of our faith would be helpful; perhaps you know someone who has questions and needs a safe place in which to ask them; perhaps you know someone whom you could introduce to Christ.

My hope is that The Pilgrim Course will introduce both new and old believers to the high calling of discipleship, and open doors within their own journeys of faith.

*Blessings and Godspeed,*  
*Alston Johnson, Dean*

*“Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a living presence.”*

*- Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

## Music News

### St. Mark's Cathedral Music Camp 2018!

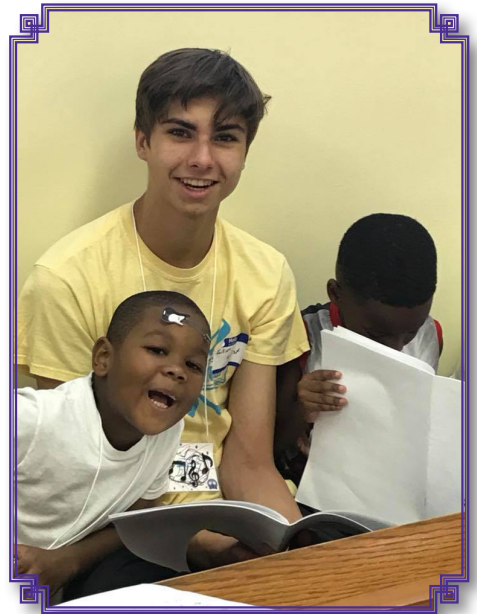
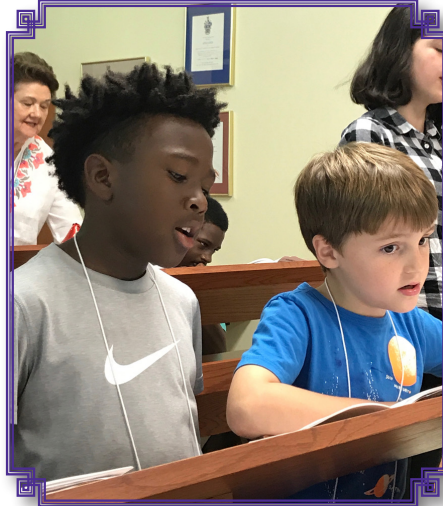
St. Mark's welcomed children from all over Shreveport to our seventh annual Music Camp during the week of June 25, 2018.

The campers, ranging in age from six to fourteen, were immersed in a week of singing, music theory and arts and crafts under the direction of Canon for Cathedral Music Bryan Mitnaul. The camp is open to both St. Mark's parishioners and those outside our church, making it an excellent outreach opportunity to reach those seeking a place to worship.

The campers learned hymns, anthems and service music, and were invited to sing at the Cathedral on July 1. The kids and their families were then invited to a Parish picnic, complete with a waterslide to celebrate.

All the campers are invited to join the St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir, which offers our Evensong service on Sunday evenings. Many former choir campers have taken advantage of that opportunity!

Next year's Music Camp is scheduled for the week of June 24-28, 2019. For more information, please contact Canon **Bryan Mitnaul**, 318-226-4034 or email [bryan@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:bryan@stmarkscathedral.net).



### Spiritual Direction Group

The weekly **Spiritual Direction Group** continues to meet on Mondays (except for holidays) at 10:00 in the cathedral library.

This is not a Bible study; it is active participation in a Rule of Life that can be life-changing. We have a number of very committed women who faithfully follow the prescribed Rule of Life, which includes immersion in the daily reading of the gospel text, and committing to a daily prayer form of praise and self-offering.

Another aspect is setting aside, on a weekly basis, special time for listening for the word of Christ in our daily life. Participants then meet weekly to share their experiences, in an environment that is accepting and supportive of our spiritual growth.

Besides developing a deeper knowledge of Christ, one grows in awareness of God's love and active presence in our lives.

All are welcome to come and see if this is a group that suits your needs and desires!

If enough interest is shown, it is possible that an additional group can be offered at a more convenient time for those whose schedules prevent coming at this time.

For more information, please contact **Canon Rowena White** at the church office (226-4026), or by email ([rowena@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:rowena@stmarkscathedral.net)), or simply come to a group meeting!

## Choral Evensong

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

September 23  
September 30



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

## Boys and Girls Choir

Rehearsal for the St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir begin on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 4:00pm. The choir is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 16 and no prior musical experience is necessary. The Boys and Girls Choir sings for Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoons at 5:15pm. The Boys and Girls Choir rehearses Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 -5:30 during school term. Parish dinner is served at 5:30pm. Please contact **Canon Bryan Mitnaul** at [bryan@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:bryan@stmarkscathedral.net) to enroll your child or if you have any questions.

## The St. Mark's Choir

Rehearsals for the St. Mark's Choir begin on Wednesday, September 12. The St. Mark's Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:15pm – 7:45pm and sings for the 10:30 Sunday Eucharist. It is helpful but not necessary for new choir members to have some previous choral experience. If you would like to join the St. Mark's Choir or you have any questions, please contact **Canon Bryan Mitnaul** at 318.226.4034 or [bryan@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:bryan@stmarkscathedral.net)

## 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](mailto: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.

**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS ARE COMING TO BOSSIER CITY**



**CenturyLink**  
CENTER

**November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**SAVE UP TO \$8 PER TICKET!!**

**To secure your tickets and save money on your order contact:**

Olivia Bynum at 678-497-1869

Or email

[bynun@harlemglobetrotters.com](mailto:bynun@harlemglobetrotters.com)

[Tickets may also be purchased here with savings available by entering promo code:](#)

**OLIVIA**

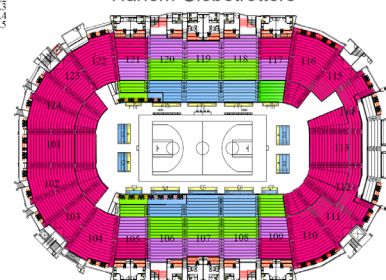
\*additional fees apply

**Ask us how to upgrade your tickets with Magic Pass!**

\*Purchasing Magic Pass online subject to regular rate

PL1  
PL2  
PL3  
PL4  
PL5

Harlem Globetrotters



	Online Price	Your Price
PL1	\$ 94.00	\$ 94.00
PL2	\$ 59.00	\$ 59.00
PL3	\$ 39.00	\$ 32.00
PL4	\$ 34.00	\$ 26.00
PL5	\$ 29.00	\$ 23.00



## MEMORIAL FLOWERS

### September 2

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aage & Adele Qvistgaard=Petersen, Morton Qvistgaard=Petersen, Michael Qvistgaard=Petersen, Elizabeth Hansard Qvistgaard=Petersen, Bridget Anne Campbell, and Truman A. (Jack) Armstrong.

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

### September 9

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bob and Dot Brammer and Lee Brammer May, and in honor of the employees of Brammer Engineering, Inc., celebrating the company's 50th anniversary.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Taylor (Tal) Broyles

### September 16

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Leonard Hargrove, Sr. & Martha Hargrove Glassell.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Carraway, Mrs. Laura C. Grounsell and Donald W. Van Doorn.

### September 23

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 honor of Colby and Shelby Hamilton, Catherine and Elizabeth Corley and Jack, Will and Ben Murphy.

### September 30

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. Gordon Urban Sanford.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Larry Shirley.

## BIRTHS

**William Werner Robinson**, son of **Werner & Wesley Robinson**, on August 2, 2018. Grandparents are **Pat & Murray Viser**.

**Emma Aline Jones**, daughter of **Tara & Reid Jones**, on August 7, 2018.

## BAPTISMS

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

**Charlotte Butler Hargrove**, daughter of **Rebecca & Clyde Hargrove, III**, on July 8, 2018.

**Virginia Warren Elbersen**, daughter of **Jonathan & Hilary Elbersen**, on August 19, 2018.

**Frances Chapman Hilliard**, daughter of **CeCe & John Hilliard**, on August 19, 2018.

## DEATHS

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

**Betsy Koontz Files**, mother of **Karol Fontaine**, on June 16, 2018.

**Jerry Allen Frantom**, husband of **Anne Frantom**, father of **Patrick & Hope Frantom**, on July 11, 2018.

**Dr. Sol Courtman**, grandfather of **Ethan & Noah Courtman**, on August 1, 2018.

**Enid Bott Roberts**, mother of **Ron & Steve Roberts**, grandmother of **David Roberts** and great-grandmother of **Mary Marshall & Caroline Roberts**, on August 3, 2018.

**David Carter**, father of **Dr. Chris Carter**, grandfather of **Isabel & Colin Carter**, on August 17, 2018.

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

## 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!



## Men in the Kitchen?

We are looking for 6-8 men for a Men's cooking crew to feed the hungry in Shreveport! This is a great way to meet other men in the church AND help the less fortunate. Kitchen experience NOT necessary! As of now, they will meet one Wednesday evening a month for a couple of hours, but cooking day and time will ultimately depend on volunteer schedules. Contact **Jennifer Beruvides** for more information: [Jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:Jennifer@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](mailto: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.



## What I Took Away From the General Convention 2018

by Rev. Thomas Nsubuga

Between July 2 and July 14, 2018, 880 strong-willed and passionate deputies met in Austin Texas to agree on some important and sensitive issues in our Church. In reminiscing about these two weeks, one of our senior deputies (having attended 7 GC's) described this General Convention as the best ever. Another deputy captured it under three C's – Collegiality, Congeniality and Committees. I would add another C – Cordial. Unlike 2015 where the tensions were high, 2018 was friendlier with a lot of "give and take."

Having been appointed to the legislative committee 10, dealing with Congregational and Diocesan Vitality, one of the things I learned is that all the work happens in the committees. All resolutions (this convention had over 500 resolutions) are sent to the different committees, and all the committed and passionate Christians come to those committees and testify in the open hearings. It is from these hearings that the committees propose, amend, or drop a particular resolution. To pass any resolution from the committee, it has to be voted on in both houses – the house of bishops and the house of deputies present in the committee. Unfortunately, for some reason there are well intended Christians who never show up in the hearings and wait to speak on the floor. These are the cause for the prolonged General Convention which is still stuck at 2 weeks, minimum.

Like any other convention, the hot buttons in this General Convention were two: The liturgical revision of the 1979 Prayer Book and, the allowing of same-gender couples to be married in their home parishes. While we decided not to revise, but memorialize the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the final resolution in one sense authorized the church to do some revision of some sort through "trial-use liturgies." By memorializing the prayer book, the church meant that you will always have the 1979 BCP in your pews as the duly authorized prayer book of the Episcopal Church, but you can use other trial liturgies "as long as they are Trinitarian," says Bishop Jake. In case you are wondering, the drive for the proposed liturgical revision, is the need for inclusive and expansive language when addressing both humanity and divinity.

As far as allowing same sex marriages in the local parish is concerned, in essence, the passed resolution removes the Opposing Bishops' authority to prohibit access by same sex couples to be married in their dioceses and local parishes; but allows them to oppose such (and teach such) as they secure a more permissive bishop to counsel parishes within their dioceses to oversee these local rites. The canons were however upheld and reaffirmed in the language of the resolution that the Rector/Priest-in-charge OR Vestry/Congregation have the right to refuse to celebrate the said rites. Likewise, in more permissive dioceses; bishops no longer have authority to restrict or give permission for parishes to restrict such rites; but with the same caveat that no Rector/Priest/Vestry or Congregation will be compelled to do so. Also, the rites for gender-neutral nuptials will remain as trial-use liturgies and will not be included in the Book of Common Prayer unless and



*Presiding Bishop Michael Curry called on the church to "follow the way of Jesus" during his keynote address at the 2018 General Convention. Bishop Curry's sermon "God is love and gives life," was presented at a revival service attended by more than 2,500 people.*

until a new revision of the BCP is authorized.

Reading between the lines, you realize that there is some canonical confusion as to the extent of the Opposing Bishops' response to all of this, and the local issue as to the status of vicars/mission councils as per diocesan canons. The practical interpretation is clear that the decision-making here (as of Advent this year) will shift from the Bishop/Diocese to the Clergy/Congregations (including the future path for liturgical revision) in general. In a nutshell the resolution implies that while bishops are able to lead their dioceses with their conscience, "Their conscience is NOT their diocese!"

The highlight of the General Convention was the welcoming back of the Church of Cuba into The Episcopal Church. In addition, there was a lot of discussion on ensuring safety and honor for women in the church, the dismantling of racism, the witnessing at the Hutto Family Detention Center for the sake of detained immigrants, the rallying against gun violence and the appeal to Israel on behalf of Palestinians.

What did I take away from the General Convention? I think Deputy Sam Candler, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Georgia has captured it well for me in his wise counsel to any who might happen to be a deputy in the future: "offer and let go". As Sam says, I have learned that "in our Church, no one –no matter who we are! – no one gets their own way. We offer what we have, and then we let it go. We don't get our own way. But we do, indeed, get the Church's Way, the greater good, the common good, the Way of Christ. The same goes for our local congregations and local communities of faith. Our most healthy communities of faith are those where people faithfully make our offerings, and then let them go, for the sake of the whole Church. In the end, it is not any one person or party who "wins." In the end, Love wins!"

## Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

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

2018	2019	2020	2021
Caffery Brown	Melissa Flores	Matt Coady	Marilyn Kirkland
Amy Lewis	Jonathan Hardtner	Carol Anne Caraway	Lisa Love
Kevin Payne	Sanders Hearne	Bob Ewing	Cody Mayo
Darrell Rebouché	Dan Koruna	Brandy Griffes	William Weaver
	Doug Rountree	Debbie Hall	Bud Westmoreland

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

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

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

**The Rev. Dr. Rowena White**  
(Canon)  
rowena@stmarkscathedral.net

**The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter**  
(Associate Clergy)  
wayne@stmarkscathedral.net

**The Rev. Deacon Drew Christiansen**  
(Deacon)  
drew@stmarkscathedral.net

**Bryan T. Mitnaul**  
(Canon for Cathedral Music)  
bryan@stmarkscathedral.net

**John Scheel** (Facilities Manager)  
john@stmarkscathedral.net

**Becky Deverts**  
(Financial Office Manager)  
becky@stmarkscathedral.net

**Bess Maxwell**  
(Administrative Assistant)  
bess@stmarkscathedral.net

**Jennifer Beruvides** (Coordinator for  
Events and Hands-on Outreach Ministry)  
jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net

**Cynthia Anderson** (Receptionist)  
cynthia@stmarkscathedral.net

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

**Caroline Reeks**  
(Children's Catechesis Support)  
caroline@stmarkscathedral.net

**Katie-Beth Davis**  
(Nursery Coordinator)  
smcnursery1@gmail.com

**St. Mark's Cathedral (Episcopal)**  
908 Rutherford Street  
Shreveport, LA 71104  
(318) 221-3360  
Fax: (318) 424-8427  
www.stmarkscathedral.net  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Shreveport, LA  
Permit No. 15