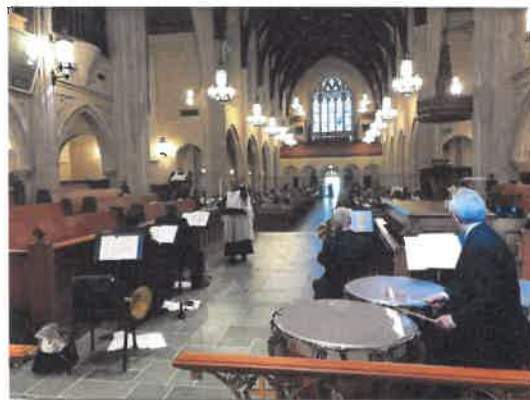


ST. MARK'S --- CATHEDRAL



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Parish Statistics 2019

Sacraments and Services:

Holy Eucharist	
Sunday	145
Weekday	162
Private	243
Daily Office	
Sunday	20
Weekday	287
Holy Baptism	
candidates 16 years and older	0
candidates under 16 years of age	21
Confirmation	
candidates 16 years and older	7
candidates under 16 years of age	14
Holy Matrimony	7
Burials	23

2018

Sunday attendance Year-to-date	16, 828
Average Sunday attendance	323.6

2019

Sunday attendance Year-to-date	17, 852
Average Sunday attendance	350.4

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

Ruth Knighton Atkins, James E. Moreland, John Caffery Jones, Gladys Irene Smith, Alice Ann Robey Thompson, William M.A. Himes, Mary Kathryne Clifford, Susan Jane Dunlop Goff, Lou Chaney Hancock, Anneliese Thuringer Brewster, Samuel Eugene Sentell, III, Charlton Havard Lyons, Jr., Phillip Earl Anderson, Adrian Ross Snider, Mary Morris Sherman McCord, Charlotte Buckler Vasser, Catharine Ann Miller Koellen, Judith Disosway Hanna Malone, James Davis Boyd, M.D., Sandra Lawrence Tamplin, James Sidney Kot, Ollie Delton Harrison, Jr. and Joseph Shelby Cage, Jr.

Report of the Dean

Blessings and Godspeed. We have had a full year at St. Mark's. I would like to thank Senior Warden Lad Shemwell, and Junior Warden Bill Kalmbach, for their daily dedication to the affairs of the Cathedral and School. We all owe our thanks to Murray Viser, Treasurer, and Ron Roberts, Treasurer Emeritus, for their regular attention to the financial health of the Cathedral and School. A note of thanksgiving for John Reeks, our Cathedral Chancellor and Legal Advisor. The many hours that these individuals give for the support of our congregation may be known to God alone; we all owe them a tremendous debt of thanks. Sanders Hearne and Melissa Flores will be retiring from the Vestry Executive Committee this year, and they deserve our thanks for the many additional hours they have given toward various administrative and operational considerations in the regular life of the Cathedral and School. Melissa and Sanders have served in a "cabinet" capacity for me personally on a number decisions requiring timely responses within my role as Dean and Rector. I would like to thank them for the thoughtfulness and discernment they have shared. Retiring Vestry Members: Melissa Flores, Jonathan Hardtner, Sanders Hearne, Dan Koruna, and Doug Rountree.

Melissa has served on the Executive Committee of the Vestry, and been a valuable resource as we have taken into account loan documents and pastoral issues that sometimes require additional time and resources. She has also been part of our team that works with our children during Sunday school when they leave the downstairs Catechesis program.

Jonathan has served the parish in a number of capacities, offering advice and help in our Youth ministry, as well as participating on our Stewardship and Marketing teams. Jonathan has a particular interest in Adult Christian Formation, and I anticipate that he will be offering insight and advice in that area in the future; we also anticipate that he will join the choir.

Sanders Hearne has served on the Executive Committee of the Vestry and given freely of his considerable insight and wisdom from his many years at St. Mark's. Sanders was a key member of this year's Marketing team in the adoption of a new "logo" for our St. Mark's printed communication and mailings. Sanders also serves in the liturgy as a Worship Leader, and is one of our Wednesday Morning Eucharist Faithful, pausing in the middle of the week to attend the 7am Eucharist in the Chapel. Sanders' presence is essential to many of the "neighborhoods" within our Cathedral life.

Dan Koruna is a steady presence of thoughtful insight at our weekly Men's Bible Study. He also serves on our Safety and Security Team and is one of our trained Stephen Ministers. Dan has participated in the formation of these important efforts with the gift of his time and positive attitude.

Doug Rountree serves as one of our steadfast ushers and has participated in the work of the Safety and Security Committee. Doug has an eye for how we might better welcome our visitors and be mindful of how life as a worshipping community might better welcome both our visitors and guests. Doug has also offered insight on we might help the parish in its stewardship efforts via communication and planning. He is also gives his time to support Mary Alice in creating a lovely environment with the flowers that arranged in the parlor and shared with our shut-ins.

A brief recap of last year's goals: Projects for 2019

Last year I mentioned the need for front desk volunteers, and lo and behold, the Lord sent Lauren Ewing to join us on Monday and Friday mornings to answer the door, and help with some of the tasks involving Catechesis planning. Lauren has also initiated a project of sending birthday cards to our parishioners, a bigger task than you might imagine, on cards created by Sherri Skrivanos. Lauren helps with keeping the world of young families and Catechesis at the forefront of our planning and communication.

Last year I mentioned the need to address the outstanding mortgage on our Little School property. I have partnered with a longtime member who is deeply connected to our school and Cathedral ministry. We are making plans to visit with individuals and groups within the parish about reducing this debt. Our hope is that we will reduce this \$771,130 note to zero within the coming year.

Last year I mentioned the need to partner with a professional marketing firm in order to have the life and events of the Cathedral more in the public eye of Shreveport and Bossier City. This year a committee of the Vestry worked with Teri Flash Creative for the purpose of designing a logo and targeting some mailings of events at the holidays. I believe that we are seeing some benefit from this Vestry project, and am looking forward to new ideas for the future.

Some Things to Note:

Father Drew has taken on significant responsibilities at St. Mark's Cathedral School as Chaplain and teacher. Father Drew is the primary clergy presence at Chapel in the mornings through the week, and teaches religion and confirmation classes during the day. Father Drew continues to work with our Youth volunteers toward having a vibrant and meaningful Episcopal Youth group on Sunday evenings as well. The work he is doing in the School and the parish is significant, and we are grateful that he has joined us.

Mary Alice Rountree has undertaken the task of freshening our parlor and office area with flowers and plants, and creating a more inviting atmosphere. We are grateful that she and her team take time every morning to bring some light and beauty in to the Cathedral for our staff and visitors.

Jennifer Beruvides and the Cooking Crew have added a Men's cooking team that meets on Wednesday nights, and is a significant addition to that ministry.

Our Adult Education and Formation has found some new life in programs introduced by Father Drew and Father Thomas. I am thrilled that we have a coffee hour group, as well as two adult Sunday school classes. We continue to have meaningful gatherings on Wednesday night for Inquirers and Confirmands, and other seekers as well. Father Drew has worked hard to secure some new and interesting speakers for our Evening Prayer services during Lent. We are also excited that we will have a visit from well-known author and commentator Dianna Butler Bass during March during a visit from Bishop Owensby.

Already this year we have hosted Biblical Scholar Elizabeth Schrader with the help and planning of Teri Nelson, who has moved back to Shreveport and is helping us with Adult Formation projects.

This year we are initiating a Great Fifty Days of Easter speaker series on the life and work of CS Lewis with a visit from Dr. Louis Markos. Dr. Markos is an internationally known scholar on the life and work of CS Lewis and Christian Apologetics. I was first introduced to his work via The Teaching Company, and The Great Courses, series through his lectures on The Chronicles of Narnia. I feel very fortunate that we will be able to host him for the Shreveport-Bossier area in May of 2020.

Of course I am blessed to work with a group of individuals who understand that their work at St Marks is an extension of Christ's Body into the world.

Some may have noticed that Alston, Thomas, and Drew are now at the Cathedral on alternate Saturday mornings for what we are calling – Saturday Duties. The Saturday slot has traditionally been covered by a member of the sexton staff. Given that most of our sexton staff find Saturday work difficult to schedule, I decided that the clergy might fill this slot and help our members with their various projects at the Cathedral. This gives us an opportunity to "visit" that we sometimes miss in the busyness of the workweek or worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Alston Johnson, Dean

Report of the Senior Warden

This type of report is the best type of report to give. There is no bad news. I am happy to report that St. Mark's Cathedral had a stable and successful 2019. We have replaced the boiler system, but those funds had been set aside thanks to the Prepare Ye the Way Campaign.

If there is one area from a fiscal point of view that we need to address, it is the remainder of the debt on the little school. We have made good strides in paying it down, but would like to pay it off to take that burden off of the school. The school is the largest ministry of St Mark's and it has been and continues to be self-supporting. The school has been the introduction to St. Marks for many people who we now count as part of our church family. Besides being an avenue for us to reach into the community and touch people in a Christian manner by example, it is the best education in town.

St, Mark's is not just a place to worship on Sunday mornings. It is a place where we love and support each other, learn Christian values through education, prayer and by the example of others and where we serve each other and our community. If you were not here for Bob Ewing's sermon on Stewardship, I encourage you to go back and read it. He captured the spirit of giving and serving in a way that was inspirational.

There is a place for everyone to serve at St. Mark's: Altar Guild, Choir, Catechesis, EYC, Newcomers Committee, Outreach Committee, ECW, Cooking Crew, Ushers, and Stephen Ministry to name a few. There are ways to serve that we don't even have organized yet. If you see a need or a way that we can serve, let us know. The strength of the St. Mark's is not in one person doing a heroic job, but in many people serving as they can. As I have become involved, I have learned several things. I gain strength and depth from serving with other people and I learn new things about people that I serve with that inspire me to be a better person.

You may have noticed this year that there was not one big push for stewardship. It has been a series of messages each week. This was an intentional shift by Alston to help us understand that stewardship is not one single deed, but a way of life. We all have hectic lives, but we should make time in our daily lives to give and serve. By this, not only have we assisted the person we served, we have fulfilled a place in our heart that desires to serve and most importantly we have set a Christian example for others to follow, most notably our children.

I was struck by the simple advice that a celebrity gave on why his marriage had endured. He said, you first have to determine if you want to get along. If so, then **act like it**. I think that if you ask our congregation whether they are or want to be a Christian, they would answer yes. Then the answer is that we should act like it, not just on Sundays, but every day of our lives. That is not as easy as it sounds, but that is why we join and become involved in a community like St. Mark's. The community is there to love us, support us, encourage us and example to us how to act like a Christian.

As always, the work of the church is done by many people, both on staff and volunteers. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and thank you for all of your support. Yours

respectfully submitted.

Lad Shemwell

Report of the Junior Warden

The state of the facilities at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral and School is good. The Cathedral, School, and Ministry Center buildings are in good repair, and we have cash reserves for some anticipated maintenance. Of course, we continue to look for ways to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds.

The most significant facilities work of 2019 was the successful installation of a new boiler and a state-of-the-art heating control system for the campus. This budgeted-for expenditure should help ensure a comfortable church and school for many years to come.

We also completed a number of smaller projects and repairs, including repairs to the Parish Hall roof, replacement of the Ministry Center carpet, painting of the windows in the Court Yard, and needed upgrades to the Deanery.

With the assistance of the Safety and Security Committee, we installed new locks and other security equipment in the church and school and painted the parking lot and drives. Thanks to the generosity of a donor, we also installed speed bumps in the drive near the Cathedral doors.

The installation of new drapes and other updates to the Parlor were completed early last year. This is an important area for the life of St. Mark's, and we thank Sara Herrington for her leadership and skill with this project.

Our pew refurbishing and repair project continues. Several pews have been completed, and we are hoping to continue this work as funds become available.

In addition to these special projects, we recognize and thank our facilities manager, John Scheel, the Cathedral staff, and the building committee for smooth operation of our campus. Their day-to-day efforts and hard work provide the space and opportunity for worship and education.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Kalmbach
Junior Warden

Report of Canon Rowena White

PASTORAL CARE: My primary area of ministry at St. Mark's involves providing pastoral care for those in the hospital and rehabilitation units, and in the homes or care facilities of our sick or homebound parishioners. The pastoral care visits may include providing Holy Communion and Holy Unction. I also provide brief pastoral counseling in my office for those who request it.

Other areas of my ministry have included leadership in our Stephen Ministry program, Ladies' Bible Study, weekly Spiritual Direction Group and in a special program labeled our 'Brentwood Project.' Each of these is described below. I also assist in our various worship services, including funerals, and in the monthly Eucharistic service at the Glen.

STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM: The parish has been supportive of the confidential, one-to-one Christian care provided by those who have been especially trained to listen, encourage, and provide quiet, emotional and spiritual support to our church members and nonmembers alike, generally on a weekly basis. We began the training of our first group of Stephen Ministers in October of 2013; in October of 2018 we began to train a new group of twelve to also become Stephen Ministers. Besides in-depth reading assignments, the training required their attending weekly sessions: two hours of lectures and skill practices. This intensive training prepared them to be compassionate and understanding listeners, a healing presence for those going through a life crisis or difficulty. Each of our five active Stephen Leaders assisted with this training, having had their own specialized training course.

After having been commissioned, Stephen Ministers are required to participate in a two hour session every two weeks, in which the Stephen Leaders facilitate their Supervision Group and continue to provide monthly Continuing Education often bringing in special speakers. One outstanding speaker, Stacey Hand, a gerontologist who specializes in Dementia, has given us several excellent talks on this important topic. As a result, she was invited to give three consecutive talks on Dementia to our adult Christian Education class. They were very well attended.

One of my roles as a Stephen Leader is to interview potential Care-Recipients and prayerfully pair each with the Care-Giver (Stephen Minister) who can best relate to them in their particular situation. It is very rewarding to see the growth in both the Care-Givers and the Care-Recipients! Currently we have eighteen Stephen Ministers; each is actively involved with an assigned Care-Receiver!

Our Stephen Ministry program also provides a series of four Grief Books to persons who have had a recent significant loss. Many have found them to be very helpful. Each is mailed to arrive in a timed sequence during the first year after the death. Several have commented that each new one was timed perfectly to address the difficulties of that time! ~~These sets of books are also available for purchase for those who want their own set, or a set to mail someone unaffiliated with St. Mark's.~~

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY: This is a weekly Bible study involving delving into the gospel lectionary text for the following Sunday. The meeting is on Wednesdays at 10:30. Having enjoyed leading this group for some years, I was happy to turn the group over to Terri Nelson in August of this year, 2019. This gives me more time for visiting and pastoral care.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION GROUP: This group is open to all who desire to grow spiritually. We commit to following a process of daily gospel lectionary reading, prayer, listening to God, weekly journaling and briefly sharing with the group. It is a model that many have found helpful here and in other parishes. We meet on Mondays at 10:00 in the church library. All are welcome.

THE BRENTWOOD PROJECT: In September 2018 we began an outreach project to a select group of children and adolescents at Brentwood Psychiatric Hospital. These are young people who have no parental or community support and are therefore awaiting placement in an appropriate facility. Their stay at Brentwood may last for months as placements are often difficult. Several concerned parishioners and I meet with them for an hour twice monthly, engaging them in games or projects. We hope to show them that they are cared for in spite of their life circumstances. Other parishioners have also contributed to their physical needs, providing funds or good clothing for their ongoing clothes closet.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: On the Diocesan level, I attend all clergy functions including the bishop's annual Spring Retreat. At the Bishop's request, I have provided monthly Spiritual Direction for two postulants (they have now

been ordained!) during their seminary education and beyond. I have been able to do some supply work (preaching and celebration of Eucharist) for churches who were in need. Also I have continued to be the Chaplain for the Diocesan Board of ECW. In that capacity, I lead worship at Board meetings, and provide Spiritual Direction at both ECW annual retreats: Time for Joy in April and Celebration of Women's Ministries in September. At the former I also present the program (talks and meditations) and the Sunday sermon and Eucharist.

On the Provincial level, I was installed in September 2018 as Chaplain for the international association for the Daughters of the King, a religious order that emphasizes prayer, service and evangelism. As chaplain to our DOK provincial president, Judy Bordelon, I participate in their annual Provincial Board Meetings and the annual Provincial and Diocesan Assemblies, giving presentations and leading in worship.

In each area of ministry, I find that daily reflection on several scriptures is essential. I remind myself that it is not by my might, nor by my power, but by the Holy Spirit that anything good is ever accomplished! (Zechariah 4:6) I also reflect on the promise of Jesus to believers (John 7:38-39) "Out of your hearts will flow rivers of life-giving water...by the Holy Spirit." A time of daily resting in God's love and grace, after reflecting on

Romans 5:5, "God is pouring love into your heart through the power of the Holy Spirit," is the foundation for all the above.

Respectfully submitted,
Rowena White+, Canon

Report of Fr. Wayne E. Carter

My primary responsibility is to provide pastoral care for the members of the Cathedral and their families. The pastoral care included visitations, administration of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, administration of Holy Unction, and other duties as assigned by Dean Johnson. I traveled a total of 2229 miles in the performance of these duties.

During 2019 I made 97 visits to private residences, 59 visits to hospitals, and 171 visits to nursing and retirement centers. During these visits I ministered to a total of 264 individuals including administering Holy Communion from the reserved Sacrament. In addition, I celebrated Eucharist 18 times, preached 22 sermons and officiated at 5 burials. I make a total of 5 visits for other purposes such as funeral homes, graveside services, meeting with individuals and families for the planning of funerals and diocesan events:

At the Diocesan level, I served as the Ecumenical Officer representing the Bishop and the Diocese at the meetings of The Louisiana Interchurch Conference. These meetings include the Annual Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the meetings of the Faith and Order Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Wayne E. Carter, Ph.D.
Associate Clergy

Report of St. Mark's EYC

Thank you to the congregation, staff, and fellow clergy of St. Mark's for another good year at St. Mark's. Over the course of the last year, my place in the Cathedral School has become larger as I have taken on the role of school chaplain. This has been very exciting for me. I am thankful to serve and minister to the school families of St. Mark's as well as to now be part of the wider network of Episcopal schools. My new ministry involves leading school chapel with Dr. Carter throughout the week (including at the Little School) and teaching Christian Education for grades 5-8. Through the 8th grade enrichment course *Intro to the Episcopal Church*, we confirmed eleven SMCS students into the Episcopal Church and baptized one in 2019.

Additionally, we confirmed another three students who did confirmation preparation outside of the school. I am very happy to say that St. Mark's EYC on Sunday evenings has doubled its average attendance since the fall of 2019. We are thankful for the relationship we had with Chris Sasser and Ministry Architects for several years, and the consultation and guidance they provided St. Mark's youth ministries both before my time serving here and during. In 2019, we have started to develop a stronger relationship to our local Young Life ministries. Nicole Mazur, the area director for Young Life, attends St. Mark's Cathedral with her husband Michael. Dean Johnson and Fr. Thomas now serve as adult leaders with Young Life at Magnet High, and I serve at Byrd. Through this relationship, we have been blessed to receive help from Young Life leader Stephen Burnett, who serves at Magnet with Alston and Thomas, with our EYC ministries at St Mark's.

Through our work with Stephen, our EYC assistant Sarah Wilkes and I identified several adults in our congregation we felt would be good mentors to St. Mark's youth and be a fun and approachable presence to the Sunday evening EYC ministries. I am so thankful for Carson Cruise, Laura Cruise, Andrew Treiman, and Erin Treiman who are serving this year as our EYC mentors, which involves a weekly commitment for a year. Through the dedication of this team and intentional focus of St. Mark's EYC to be Christ-centered, I truly believe that we are doing something great here at St. Mark's that has new energy and renewed focus on Christian formation for this age group.

St. Mark's EYC also had two great trips in 2019. The first was our trip to Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX for Spring Break. The second was a trip to the Buffalo River on Labor Day weekend. I want to thank Rob and Leslye Gilchrist, Harrice Daniels, William Weaver, and Brad Massad chaperoning and making these trips such great experiences. I cannot do what I do without the great help we have been blessed to receive in our EYC ministries.

For information and updates on St. Mark's EYC ministries, please follow our Instagram page @smceyc. I am looking forward to what 2020 brings to us at St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Andrew L. Christiansen

Report of Music Ministry

The Music Ministry of St. Mark's Cathedral has continued to experience significant growth during 2019. Most importantly, our cathedral choirs have continued to develop in both size and proficiency. The Boys and Girls Choir presents weekly services of Choral Evensong during school term, and continues to give St. Mark's Cathedral the distinction of being the only church in the Diocese, as well as one of the few in the country that offer a regular weekly service of Choral Evensong. In addition, the St. Mark's Choir offered superb music for services every Sunday of the year. The St. Mark's Choirs also provided musical leadership for all special services and festivals throughout the year.

The St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir continues to grow and started off the 2019-2020 program year with a roster of 38 choristers! This number includes 12 new choristers, two of whom are younger siblings of older choristers. In addition to becoming excellent musicians, this committed group of boys and girls are learning responsibility and experiencing the fact that hard work results in an outcome of which they can be proud. We have begun broadcasting the Evensong services on the internet and have been receiving rave reviews from all over the world!

The St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir was auditioned and invited to sing Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra in April 2019. This was the first time the complete St. Matthew Passion has ever been performed in Shreveport. The concert was a huge success and was broadcast on National Public Radio.

In February, we were honored to have the Choir of Men and Boys from St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, NYC present a concert of sacred choral music here at St. Mark's as part of our Great Masterpiece Concert Series. This was their final concert under the direction of Andrew Hyde who left his post as Master of the Choristers at St. Thomas, Fifth Avenue to become Music Director at King's College, Cambridge last fall.

Marcy Ellen Duplantis is in her fifth year as the Assistant Director of the Boys and Girls Choir. She brings her extensive vocal training and experience to her work with the trebles as they learn the proper way to sing. The Boys and Girls Choir is the only such program in Louisiana and provides world class training free of charge to all singers who participate. It is important to note that the majority of our choristers are from outside of the parish, thereby making the choir a true outreach program! The St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir have an established reputation for excellence in the Shreveport/Bossier Community and once again have the honor of being invited to sing the National Anthem for the Harlem Globetrotters basketball game at CenturyLink this year. If you know of a child (boy or girl) who would enjoy and benefit from participation in this program, please let me know.

The St. Mark's Choir continues to lose long-term members through relocation or death. I have been successful in recruiting some new members from the community and parish to help fill the void left by these significant losses. I have continued the St. Mark's tradition of hiring Centenary College students to sing in the St. Mark's Choir. Several of our Centenary choristers have opted to remain in the choir after graduation! The practice of hiring Centenary students has become extremely important in that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people in our congregation who are willing and able to make the significant time commitment necessary to fully participate in the St. Mark's Choir. If you are interested in joining the St. Mark's Choir, please let me know. We would love to have you and no audition is necessary!

Dr. Joseph Henry is in his fifth year as St. Mark's Assistant Organist. Dr. Henry holds two Doctorates in Music; one in Organ Performance and the other in Accompaniment. He is Assistant Professor of Music Theory and University Organist at Grambling State University and commutes to St. Mark's on Wednesdays and Sundays. His presence at worship affords me the opportunity to conduct our choirs during our Sunday morning services and most importantly at Choral Evensong. He also serves in the U. S. Army Reserve. He is an excellent organist and a wonderful accompanist! I simply could not achieve the kind of results from my direction of our choirs without Dr. Henry's talent and skill as an accompanist.

As many of you know, I was involved in a major automobile accident in February 2019 which resulted in major surgery last March. Due to the extensive nature of my injuries I was unable to conduct or play the organ. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Joseph Henry and Marcie Ellen Duplantis for their efforts to keep the program running at such a high level during my extended absence.

Last June, St. Mark's held its 8th annual Summer Music Camp. This was our largest group ever with 95 in attendance. It is a wonderful opportunity for St. Mark's to share our comprehensive music ministry free of charge with the Shreveport/Bossier community. Through this camp we are exposing children to the rich musical heritage that we enjoy as Episcopalians. Many of our older members of the Boys and Girls Choir served as camp counselors for the first time this year. The camp participants once again led the Eucharist on the Sunday following Music Camp. The service was followed by a church picnic complete with water slides! The choristers always look forward to the after church festivities, as it is a way for them to say goodbye to the friends that they have made during Music Camp and also for the members of St. Mark's to meet them and their families. Music Camp 2019 was once again held later in June this past year, in order for a large number of children from the Highland Center as well as other community organization to participate. The Summer Music Camp also serves as a feeder program to the St. Mark's Boys and Girls Choir and 40 campers augmented the St. Mark's Choirs for our July 4th service! This was the largest group to participate in the Sunday morning service since we began the camp 8 years ago.

In November 2019, St. Mark's Cathedral once again hosted the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival for their "Shreveport Day". The ETPOF draws over 150 organists from around the world to enjoy the many significant Aeolian-Skinner organs that are unique to our area. The St. Mark's Cathedral organ was featured with organ recitals by three world class organists. These concerts are recorded live for broadcast on the NPR radio program *Pipe Dreams*. St. Mark's organ is hailed as one of the finest church organs in the world, which is a distinction of which we should indeed be proud. Our organ is kept in excellent condition through regular maintenance. However, there continue to be some significant issues related to the organ pipework that are being evaluated at this time. The St. Mark's organ was installed in 1959 and with an instrument of this age, ongoing maintenance issues are to be expected.

In December, the St. Mark's Choirs presented our annual gift to the community - A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The nave and balcony were completely full of worshipers and I had to put out folding chairs to accommodate the 75 choristers who made this our best Lessons and Carols service ever! The nave was once again beautifully decorated by a group of dedicated choir members and was bathed in candlelight. This year, treble chorister Field Baber had the honor of singing the first verse of "*Once in Royal David's City*" and our choirs once again performed superbly, thereby making the service something to remember. This year, the readers for the service were parents of choristers, as well as Vestry members and people who hold leadership positions at St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport.

This is an exciting time to be part of the Music Ministry of St. Mark's Cathedral and I am proud of all that we have accomplished in the past year. In a time when most church choirs are struggling to survive, St. Mark's choirs continue to grow. I am looking forward to another year of wonderful music in thanksgiving for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan T. Mitnaul
Canon for Cathedral Music

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 Hargrove (children's) Altar and school altar; provide service set ups for all St. Mark's Cathedral School Eucharist; arrange for cleaning of Stonewall Chapel in preparation for the All Saints' service.

Altar Guild Leadership Term

Directress: Tara Jones

Members: 43 Active 8 Inactive

Trainees: 2

Three Standing Committees:

Wedding Committee – Chair – Renee Dupree

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 Committee - Chair – Jane West

Members select linens to be used during each week's services and special services and provide for the washing and ironing of the small pieces. Ora washes and irons the Fair Linens and cover cloths.

Services Performed in 2019

Sunday Eucharist 155

Weekday Eucharist 192

Private Communions 243

Marriages 7

Baptisms 18

Funerals/Burials 23

Confirmations 21

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Jones, Directress

Report of Community Ministries

The Community Ministries committee is a committee of the Vestry dedicated to considering requests for financial and volunteer support for worthwhile community activities locally, nationally and around the world. Our mission is to assist entities which seek to serve the poor and disadvantaged, relieve suffering, and provide sustenance, both spiritual and physical, to those in need whose needs are not met by existing levels of governmental or charitable support.

We are particularly concerned with the needs of children, the homeless, elderly, and the victims of poverty, crime, disaster and religious persecution. Support may include creating parishioner and Cathedral youth service opportunities, conducting in-gatherings for non-profits serving at risk populations and recommending financial support to the vestry from designated Community Ministries funds.

In 2019 CM funds awarded to entities serving local/regional residents included Community Renewal International, the ARC of Caddo-Bossier's GREAT program, the Caddo Parish Schools Homeless Children's program, the YWCA of Northwest Louisiana, Jewel House - a shelter for homeless girls ages 13 – 20, the Caddo Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program, and Community Support Programs, providing housing and services to homeless individuals with mental illness, and providing diabetic supplies for low income patients served by the Martin Luther King Health Center founded by Sister Margaret McCaffrey. Among the faith-based ministries receiving St. Mark's support were St. Luke's Episcopal Medical Ministry, HOPE House, serving the working poor in downtown and inner-city Neighborhoods, Samaritan Center, providing faith based counseling to families and Northern and Central LA Interfaith, a collaborative of area churches working to assist residents in poor and impoverished neighborhoods to build capacity to improve their neighborhoods.

2019 Lenten Fasting funds supported the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, and their efforts to expand capacity and service levels to the hungry by renovating a property for a larger food storage and refrigeration facility.

In addition to those mentioned above, ministries serving children funded in 2019 include The Gingerbread House, serving children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, Providence House, serving homeless families with children, *Children and Arthritis*, an annual summer camp held at Centenary College for children with Arthritis and their families established by Dr. Thomas Pressly, and Community Support Program's Portals, providing case management for indigent foster children. Our sponsorship of a child at *Our Little Roses*, an Episcopal home and school for girls in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, continues.

Committee members perform due diligence in evaluating each request. Completion of a formal funding application template is required for larger funding requests. Committee members have direct contact with ministries supported with Cathedral funds.

The Community Ministries Committee meets the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor. All parishioners are welcome to attend committee meetings and participate in this outreach ministry. If you know of a nonprofit or critical community need you would like to see considered for support, would like a copy of the CM funding application, or more information, please contact Candace Higginbotham, at 470-3001.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Higginbotham

Report of Outreach and Events

What a great year we had in 2019! St. Mark's had lots of activity in both outreach and hosting different events. Outreach is such an important aspect of our Christian lives. Just look to Acts 20:35, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Below you will find a list of activities parishioners participated in throughout the year.

- Hosted Valentine Day parties at The Providence House.
- Donated items to The Providence House preschool.
- Supplied the Community Renewal International Haven Houses with fresh fruit every week in the spring and fall. It is quite a treat for the children to receive fresh fruit for an after-school snack.
- Collected box fans for the Caddo Council on Aging.
- Served dinner at the Providence House.
- Collected food items for the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank.
- Collected cakes for a neighborhood Community Renewal picnic.
- Collected school supplies and backpacks for the Highland Friendship House students.
- Collected Emergency Kits for new resident children at the Providence House.

If you did not get the opportunity to take part in some of these wonderful activities, don't fret! 2020 will be full of similar great opportunities.

We also had several wonderful events this past year that were within our church:

- Our annual meeting and lunch kicked off 2019 in January with a great lunch!
- May was our Hot Dog Pentecost Picnic.
- August marked the end of summer and our annual Rally Day. Fried chicken was on the menu this year. Ministries within St. Marks were showcased.
- Started a Men's Cooking Crew
- Continued and growing Day Cooking Crew
- Our Cooking Crews together provided more than 1,870 pans of food and then full meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas for 900 people, this included 84 turkeys, dressing, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, gravy, rolls, and homemade pies!
- The Cooking Crew serves the 10 Community Renewal Houses, Jewell House, Hope House, Common Ground, and the Volunteers of American Veterans Program.

Keep your eyes open for new and continued outreach opportunities in 2020! These are wonderful occasions to make a difference in the community and your fellow man! You will be surprised how helping someone can leave a lasting effect on yourself! Additionally, if you ever have an idea for the church, please contact me!

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Beruvides
jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net

Report of St. Mark's Cathedral School

In May of last year, St. Mark's Cathedral School graduated thirty-six 8th graders who are now attending several different high schools throughout the area. At present, we have 328 students enrolled in preschool 2-8th grade, and the enrollment season for 2020-21 has just begun. Over sixty students, representing approximately forty families, are Cathedral parishioners, and many other families list St. Mark's as preferred house of worship or attend at least occasionally. Of the school's sixty-two full and part-time employees, twelve are parishioners and others participate in the life of the parish in various ways.

St. Mark's Cathedral School is accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES), which is a recognized accrediting agency of the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA). The school also holds membership in the National Association of Episcopal Schools and the National Association of Independent Schools. We maintain association with the Association of Middle Level Educators.

Our Episcopal identity and relationship to the Cathedral are foundational aspects of a St. Mark's education. Fr. Drew Christiansen is now our School Chaplain, as well as 5th-8th grade Christian Education teacher, and it has truly been a joy to see him embrace this new role so completely. His responsibilities beyond the classroom include planning and organization for all Chapels in all divisions; pastoral support to all students, families, and teachers, regardless of denominational affiliation; and strengthening our connection to the Cathedral. Students in pre-school and kindergarten attend chapel once per week, and students in grades 1-8 attend twice per week. The primary means of worship is a slightly modified Morning Prayer, but the Holy Eucharist is celebrated a few times during the year, including Holy Cross, All Saints, Ash Wednesday, and St. Mark's Day in '19-20. Christian education classes meet weekly for students in grades Ps 2-4 and daily for one academic quarter in grades 5-8. A commitment to community service is also a core element of our Episcopal identity and school culture, and students of all ages participate in outreach or service opportunities.

St. Mark's Cathedral School is governed by a School Board, which is elected by the Vestry. The Dean and Wardens are automatically members of the School Board, and 60% of the members must be communicants of the Cathedral parish. The Dean appoints the officers. Communicants currently serving on the School Board are Lad Shemwell (Senior Warden), Bill Kalmbach (Junior Warden), Chris Walls (President), Lloyd Brown (Treasurer), Jimmy Campbell, Holly Cook, Jamie Eagles, Susan Snyder, Rodney Varnadore, and William Weaver.

The School is blessed to enjoy warm and supportive relationships with the Cathedral staff with whom we work on a daily basis and who assist us in so many ways. Particular thanks are in order yet again to John Scheel, who spends so much of his time helping the school to run smoothly, as well as to Dalton Bijou and Ora McClinton, who are generous in assisting school custodian Calvin Jones whenever asked. We are blessed to have Bryan Mitnaul play the organ for us in Family Chapel on Fridays and for our Eucharists. Bess Maxwell prints our Chapel bulletins. I have already mentioned the excellent ministry of Fr. Drew, but we are deeply appreciative of the support that both Dean Johnson and Fr. Thomas have for the ministry of the school.

Remember that all parishioners are part of the School community as well. Please join us for Chapel anytime. Our weekly newsletter, *The Weekly Words*, can be found on our website. Please call us at 221-7454 anytime you have any question or concerns about the school.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Carter, D.Min.
Head of School

