

# Cross-Finder

St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

January 2023

## Visioning the Future of St. Helena's



*Architectural rendering by Ben Adam, January 2023*



St. Helena's  
Episcopal Church and School

# From The Rector

Blessings to you as we begin a new year together at St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School! In this issue, you will read articles reflecting on how our Risen Lord was at work among us, and through us in the year past. You will also read some of the ministry plans and initiatives for the spring of 2023 as we follow Christ and serve in his Kingdom. **I hope you will be present and join in conversation at the Annual Parish Meeting of St. Helena's on Sunday, January 22.** On that morning we will **worship at 7:45am & 10am.** We will enjoy breakfast together as we view a presentation of **St. Helena's Master Plan**, elect 4 new vestry members, and hear ministry plans for the spring. I hope to see you there.



When 2022 began, our church, school, and nation were still dealing with the threats of the Omicron variant of COVID. As we moved from winter into spring, it became clear that our Parish Family was rapidly rebounding from the pandemic: worship attendance grew significantly as people began to feel more comfortable at in-person worship. Increasing numbers of visitors blessed us with their presence. In March, we were able to gather for Lenten Dinners and full Holy Week worship services. We re-launched ministries put on hold by COVID, including Men of St. Helena's and Lay Eucharistic Visitors. By the summer, we were able to host the largest Vacation Bible School in our history, and return to Wounded Knee, South Dakota. In September, over 300 members of our Family worshipped, played, and kicked-off the fall at Camp Capers. Our school was able to resume field trips, and Sunday worship attendance- both in person and online- grew significantly. We launched new ministries including Greeters and Empty Nesters. As we move into 2023, COVID is not gone, but we seem to have learned to live with its presence even as we take some personal precautions, and we continue to be renewed by the opportunity to gather together in-person for worship, fellowship, study, and fun.

2022 was a season of staff transitions at St. Helena's. Whit Matteson and Sheryl Loveless retired from their ministry here, and we welcomed Lynn Lowry, Amy Ryland and Devvie Asel to our staff. Stefanie Nitschke moved from part-time to full-time to serve our growing number of young families. In September we welcomed our curate, The Rev. Jamie George, and in November we sent out The Rev. Brian Fox to be Rector of St. Paul's Church & School in San Antonio. There will be more staff transitions in the year ahead. I am looking for a priest to fill the position vacated by Brian Fox, and we will be looking for a person to lead Middle School youth among other duties.

[Continued next page](#)

# From The Rector

There are many signs of health and vibrancy in our congregation.

- **We are a 7-day – a -week church.** Our facilities are used weekly by a great variety of ministries inside and outside our parish: Sr. Fellowship art classes, 12-step recovery groups, Hill Country Youth Orchestra, St. Helena's School, Bible studies, youth and children ministries, and much more.
- **Fifty people were confirmed, received, or reaffirmed** by Bishop Reed in 2022, and **sixteen were baptized.**
- Our average Sunday attendance for 2022 was 301 in person and 75 online.
- **Financial giving for 2023 is up almost 20% over 2022**, a sign of the incredible generosity and faithfulness of our parish family.
- And, we **continue to partner in our community, through our diocese, and in South Dakota** to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- **The outreach budget for 2023 has been doubled**, and we are exploring the commencement of a monthly Sunday worship service at Morningside Menger Springs in the weeks ahead.

As we rebounded from COVID it became abundantly clear that many of our ministries are outgrowing our physical spaces.

- The **11:00am worship service is full** every week and the Youth Group has **outgrown the Youth House** on a weekly basis.
- The Sr. Fellowship Art classes have moved into the Parish Hall for more space.
- We need **more parking and better accessibility** for people with physical challenges.

With input from the congregation, and the parish and school staff, **a Master Plan has been adopted by the Vestry** to identify needs and opportunities, and to create a phased approach for the development of our campus in the decades ahead. I look forward to hearing your thoughts about this plan.

Thank you for your faithfulness to our Lord and for your presence at St. Helena's. Thank you for persevering through the pandemic together. Thank you for loving and serving the Lord. May we run with patience together the race set before us in 2023.

Peace,

*David+*

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# February Calendar at a Glance

Services: Wednesdays at 10am and Sundays at 7:45am (HS), 9:00am (WH) and 11:00am (HS). Sunday School at 10:10am. Wednesday afterschool : for 1st-5th at 4pm CMC and middle school in YH. 5:30p St. H Singers in PH.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AW - Annex West on Rock St CMC - Children's Ministry Center on Rock St; GR - Great Room 2nd floor WH; GH - Gathering Haus behind office; HS - History Sanctuary Building on Rock Street; PH - Parish Hall is in the basement of HS; WH - Wendler Hall on Johns Street; YH - Youth House on Rock Street; Note: Calendar may change.						
			<b>Feb 1</b> 11 am & 6 pm, PH Women's Bible Study After school programs/ youth and chancel choir	<b>Feb 2</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Feb 4</b> Vestry Retreat
<b>Feb 5</b> Sunday Services / Baptisms Young Fam- ilies Lunch 12:15 pm.	<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>Feb 7</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies	<b>Feb 8</b> 11 am & 6 pm, PH Women's Bible Study After school programs/ youth and chancel choir	<b>Feb 9</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW 11 am Room 1 PH Crochet/Knit Group	<b>Feb 10</b> 60s-70s Family Night	<b>Feb 11</b>
<b>Feb 12</b> <b>Super            Bowl</b> Sunday Services	<b>Feb 13</b> 1 -2:30 pm PH, Art Haus	<b>Feb 14</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies	<b>Feb 15</b> 11 am & 6 pm, PH Women's Bible Study After school programs/ youth and chancel choir	<b>Feb 16</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW Seniors Lunch, location TBD Diocesan Council	<b>Feb 17</b> Diocesan Council	<b>Feb 18</b> Diocesan Council
<b>Feb 19</b> Sunday Services	<b>Feb 20</b> 11 am & 6 pm, PH Women's Bible Study	<b>Feb 21</b> <b>Shrove            Tuesday</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies <b>Pancake            Supper</b>	<b>Feb 22</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Services at 7 am, noon, 6 pm After school programs/ youth and chancel choir	<b>Feb 23</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Feb 25</b>
<b>Feb 26</b> Sunday Services	<b>Feb 27</b> 1-2:30 pm PH, Art Haus	<b>Feb 28</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies				

# March Calendar at a Glance


Services: Wednesdays at 10am and Sundays at 7:45am (HS), 9:00am (WH) and 11:00am (HS). Sunday School at 10:10am. Wednesday afterschool : for 1st-5th at 4pm CMC and middle school in YH. 5:30p St. H Singers in PH.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AW - Annex West on Rock St CMC - Children's Ministry Center on Rock St; GR - Great Room 2nd floor WH; GH - Gathering Haus behind office; HS - History Sanctuary Building on Rock Street; PH - Parish Hall is in the basement of HS; WH - Wendler Hall on Johns Street; YH - Youth House on Rock Street; Note: Calendar may change.						
			<b>Mar 1</b> After school programs/youth and chancel choir 5:30 pm Evening Prayer HS 6:00 pm Lent Dinner Series, GR	<b>Mar 2</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	<b>Mar 3</b> Happening (10-12 grade)	<b>Mar 4</b> Happening (10-12 grade)
<b>Mar 5</b> Sunday Services Happening (10-12 grade) Young Families Lunch	<b>Mar 6</b>	<b>Mar 7</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies	<b>Mar 8</b> After school programs/youth and chancel choir 5:30 pm Evening Prayer HS 6:00 pm Lent Dinner Series, GR	<b>Mar 9</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>Mar 11</b>
<b>Mar 12</b> Time change/ Spring Break Sunday Services	<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>Mar 14</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies	<b>Mar 15</b> After school programs/youth and chancel choir 5:30 pm Evening Prayer HS 6:00 pm Lent Dinner Series, GR	<b>Mar 16</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW 16-19 Cursillo Camp Capers	<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>Mar 18</b>
<b>Mar 19</b> Sunday Services	<b>Mar 20</b>	<b>Mar 21</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies	<b>Mar 22</b> After school programs/youth and chancel choir 5:30 pm Evening Prayer HS 6:00 pm Lent Dinner Series, GR	<b>Mar 23</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	<b>Mar 24</b>	<b>Mar 25</b>
<b>Mar 26</b> Sunday Services	<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>Mar 28</b> 1 pm AW Ukuladies	<b>Mar 29</b> After school programs/youth and chancel choir 5:30 pm Evening Prayer HS 6:00 pm Lent Dinner Series, GR	<b>Mar 30</b>	<b>Mar 31</b>	

# Cross-Finder is Now Digital!

Each year St. Helena's publishes 5-6 copies of our newsletter, Cross-Finder. **Each copy is 22-28 pages and is mailed to our 650+ families.** In the interest of being good stewards of the environment and of our resources, we are piloting delivering Cross-Finder through our website (directions shown at bottom of this page) and using Constant Contact email.

**Here are the advantages of the digital Cross-Finder:**

- **The digital version will accommodate a lot more photos** of St. Helena's children, youth and events than the printed version. **Items that appear only in the digital version will be identified by this icon next to the text or image.** 
- You can **access Cross-Finder** any time or place... **on your phone, tablet or computer.**
- **It's easy to share the digital version of Cross-Finder with family and friends** so they can read articles and see photos.
- Electing to receive the digital version instead of the printed version saves paper and postage.

**Note that the church will continue to mail the paper version of Cross-Finder using US Mail Service unless we hear by email that you prefer the digital version.** We will also have copies of the current Cross-Finder in the sanctuaries.

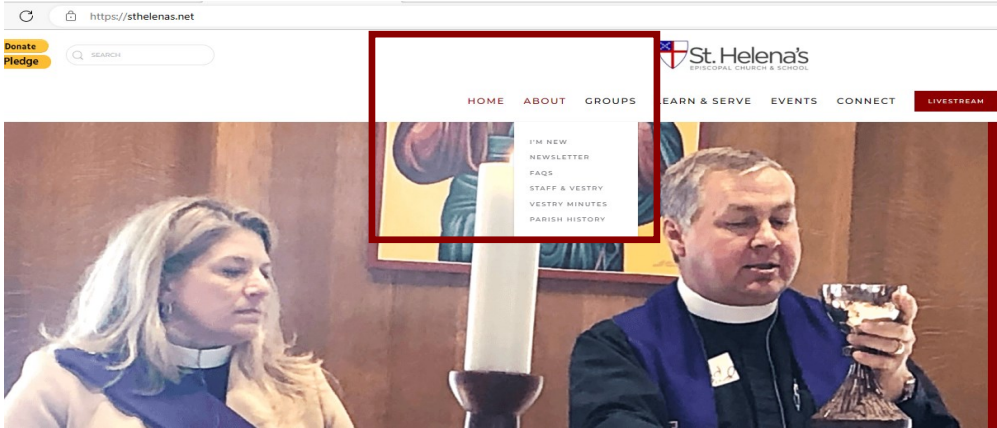
**IMPORTANT: If you want to be removed from our US Postal mailing list, and receive Cross-Finder digitally, please email- [devvie@sthelenas.net](mailto:devvie@sthelenas.net) and send Devvie:**

1. Your first and last name
2. Your address
3. A note that **you prefer to receive Cross-Finder electronically via Constant Contact.**

# Directions to access Cross-Finder

New and former digital issues of our newsletter, Cross-Finder will be available on our website for you to view, download or print. Below are the directions to access Cross-Finder.

1. Go to [www.sthelenas.net](http://www.sthelenas.net).



2. Select 'ABOUT' to view the options shown below. Then select NEWSLETTER.



3. Scroll down until you find the header Cross-Finder Magazine. Click the grey box to open the issue you want to view. An example of how the November 2022 issue appears is shown below.

## Cross-Finder Magazine



NOVEMBER 2022

Select the month to open the edition. Once open, use the download icon or the print icon in the top right corner to print or save the issue to your desktop.



# Celebrating our Campus Master Plan

In 2005, the leadership of St. Helena's planned for the future needs and opportunities of living into our mission to welcome all God's Children to grow with us in grace and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. They developed a Master Plan for the campus and the phases in which to implement those plans. Those phases included construction of Wendler Hall and the purchase of two properties on Rock Street: the Hill House and the Children's Ministry Center. In 2018, St. Helena's retired all debt on those projects.



This year, the Vestry and the dedicated members of the Master Planning Taskforce undertook the task of updating our Master Plan. Since the 2005 plan, St. Helena's has acquired adjoining properties, started a school, and added many new ministries, staff, and programs. There are now 13 buildings on our campus – only 3 of which were built for church purposes. Our church and our community continue to grow and St. Helena's needs a reasonable plan for continuing our mission in the heart of Boerne in the next decade.

With input from the staff, congregation, and school, the Master Planning Task Force has created a campus plan that includes preserving the historic sanctuary, construction of new facilities, and remodeling of some existing facilities to meet the needs and priorities of our mission.

A Master Plan is not about designing buildings, or getting into the details of carpet colors, paint colors, light fixtures, etc. It is a plan for where to locate buildings, parking, programs, playgrounds, accessibility needs, and more, with a logical progression of phased development. Stay tuned for more opportunities to hear about St. Helena's Master Plan.

# Celebrating Father David

Sunday, December 11, 2022 St. Helena's members celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Father David's Ordination to the Priesthood



# Celebrating 'A Walk In Bethlehem'



*"How low was our Redeemer brought, the King who held the stars  
Lay helpless in a maiden's arms and pressed against her heart  
While sheep and cattle raised their voice the babe could speak no words  
The ever flowing Spring of Joy had come to share our thirst."*

Lyrics from "How Low was Our Redeemer Brought" by Sovereign Grace

**As these lyrics that Carol Gish sang, lingered in the air at our final performance of A Walk in Bethlehem 2022,** I watched the crowd. The parking lot and Rock street were filled with babies in strollers, young children whose hands were filled with apples and bread, sticky with honey and adults of all ages smiled, shook hands and fell into conversations with family and friends. I watch the cast, who had stayed in character so well, relax, smile and laugh.

Each year I tell Mary and Joseph to stay on the stage just a little longer because people often take photos or gather their children and talk about the baby. This year after the final performance, one little girl, about 3 years old, REALLY wanted to see the baby's face. Her mom asked if the family could come up on the stage. I knew if I allowed one family on the stage others would ask, so I offered to walk the little girl up on the stage. She was eager. She looked at the baby, and said, "He's beautiful."

**And so we ended another year of our Walk in Bethlehem with my thoughts on her eagerness to approach the Christ child and the simple words, "He's beautiful."**

Our Walk in Bethlehem again shown through as a success. One night Father David chatted with the visitors as they lined up awaiting entry through the gates. He discovered that about half of the people had never been through our experience before, while the other half had been before. Some had visited for years.

**Thanks to the entire church family for all that you gave to our community.** When I say there are too many to name, that is a truth. So thank you to the people who invited others. Thank you to those who reposted the invitation on their social media accounts. Thank you to the construction crew, the prop committee, the costume committee, the middle school youth group for advertising it on their float in the Weihnachts parade, the cast, my personal performance crew, the deconstruct crew, the church staff and my husband.

Until we walk again in our little town of Bethlehem, let us be eager to seek the Christ and recognize his beauty!

*Dawn McLenden*

# Bethlehem Memories



# Bethlehem Memories



# Celebrating Young Families Ministry



**Young Families at Mustang Island**



**Young Families Christmas Pajama**

Young Families is such a busy group. In the season with growing children we are pulled in quite a few different directions. **But one thing this group is really great at doing is trying to make monthly time to devote to the friendships and faith of this group.** Monthly our gatherings vary from lunch after church, family game nights, Friendsgiving, summer pool days, or even our children's various birthday parties. One thing is for sure, no matter what the outing is this group is destined for a great time. **There is a new saying that is growing in the Young Families group and that is we are a fr-amily**". The friendships our children and ourselves as adults have developed is more than just a friendship. We share life together, the highs and lows, our spiritual journeys and because of that we have become a family. So putting friends and family together makes "fr-amily". We know with a new year comes a new busy schedule but we still will always try our best to put a special time aside for this "fr-amily". Looking forward to the new year to come is exciting for this group! **Newcomers are always welcome!**

## **Save the dates:**

**February 5th** Young Families Lunch after Church

**February 10th** 60s/70s Themed Family night out

**March 5th** Young Families Lunch after Church

**April 2nd** Young Families Lunch after Church

**April 9th-** Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

**April 28th-** Young Families goes to Movie in the Park showing Minions

**May 7th-** Lunch after Church at Stefanie's home for Barbeque and waterslide fun!

**TBD** Young Families goes to Mustang Island Family Camp

# Preparing for Christmas 2022

*December 18... a day filled with Lessons & Carols at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services with children and adults enjoying cookies and coffee while helping to green the sanctuaries and grounds of St. Helena's.*



# Celebrating Altar Guild

*Altar Guild celebrates the 1st Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange.*



## **St. Helena's Altar Guild Welcomes You To Join Us.**

You don't need to be a 'pro' at preparing the altar. We will support you as you learn the joys of serving Christ in this special way.

If you are interested, please contact Kim or Patty.

Kim Geer Co-Directress Altar Guild

(619)850-4435

Patty Calder Co-Directress Altar Guild

(210)391-7355



# Celebrating Christmas Eve



# Celebrating Adult Learning

**Adult Sunday School Jan 29 - March 26**

**Great Room, Wendler Hall at 10:10am**

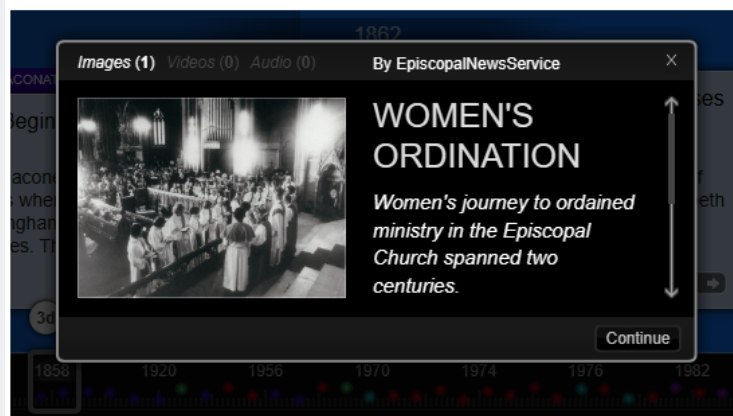
The Christian life is a journey of life-long learning. St. Helena's Episcopal Church strives to form mature disciples of Jesus Christ. As such, we believe every person should be actively engaged in expanding their knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith as we follow Jesus together. As part of our commitment to this process, on **January 29 we resume Sunday School for adults, children and youth.**

**The Extraordinary Ordinary of the Episcopal Church is the topic for adult discussion Jan 29-Feb 19.** Two elephants are trouncing around St. Helena's and we might want to talk about them. Now, they aren't actual elephants. However, first we have an ordained woman roaming around the halls. We've never seen one of those at St. Helena's before. Second, we have a nominee for the next diocesan Bishop in our midst. Again, we've never had one of those before. Father David and Mother Jamie thought there might be some significant questions percolating in the parish. Our goal is to discuss:

- What is ordination and why do we ordain deacons and clergy?
- Why does the Episcopal Church ordain women while other denominations do not ordain women?
- What does it mean to be persuaded by God to enter into the discernment of a bishop's election?
- How do we elect bishops and what is the process toward consecration of a bishop?
- In what ways are we all called to guard the faith and unity of the Church?

**Life after Death is the topic for adult discussion Feb 26-Mar 26.**

We hope you will join us and bring your questions for discussion.



Click this link to view this video. [Interactive timeline of the history of women's ordination – Episcopal News Service](#)

# Celebrating Children & Youth Learning

**Sunday School for children and youth resumes January 29 at 10:10 am**

Children meet Stefanie or Dawn on the patio of Wendler Hall

Youth meet in the Youth House

**Newcomers and visitors are welcome!**

**Wednesday Programs for children of all ages:**

**Kingdom Kids** (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders) meet from 4:00-5:30 pm in the Children's Ministry Center. Each Wednesday they start with a snack and share personal high and lows of the week to check in with one another. Each week we have bible study time, fun games, creative crafts and of course some free time to play for fellowship building! The amazing Haley Stoner and Megan Boutte are the High School interns who lead this group, Stefanie Nitschke helps oversee. If you have any questions about this group please email Stefanie at [Stefanie@sthelenas.net](mailto:Stefanie@sthelenas.net)

**Rock Solid** (3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> graders) meet from 4:00-5:30 pm in the Children's Ministry Center. They too start each session with a snack and "I wonder.." questions to grow their thinking and learning. Along with a bible study time to dive into Gods word they have more in-depth discussions on their learning and conclude with really fun crafts. Ms. Dawn with the help of Maddie Calder, High School volunteer, lead this great group together. If you have any questions about this group please email Dawn at [Dawn@sthelenas.net](mailto:Dawn@sthelenas.net)

**Middle School Youth Group** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) meet from 4:00-5:30 pm in the Youth House. High School interns, Noah Shelby and Laura Tidwell, lead this fun group together, Sharon Tidwell and Dawn McLendon help oversee. A heavy snack will be provided each week. If you have any questions about this group, please email Dawn.

**St. Helena's Singers Youth Choir** (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) meet from 5:30-6:30 pm - All who wish to learn to sing are welcome. Meet in Choir Room, 1st floor Historic Sanctuary building, Rock Street. If you have any questions about this group please email Lynne at [Choir@sthelenas.net](mailto:Choir@sthelenas.net)

**High School Youth Group** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) meet from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Youth House. Each Wednesday they start by eating dinner together before they dive into their bible study. Dawn McLendon and Matt Boutte led this great group together. If you have any questions about this group please email Dawn at [Dawn@sthelenas.net](mailto:Dawn@sthelenas.net)



# Save the Date - Coming This Summer

Vacation Bible School (2 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

June 12-15 9am-12pm

Arts Academy (1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

July 17-21 9am-2pm

Camp Wacky (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

August 1- 3 9am-2pm



Information coming. If you have any questions, please contact [Dawn@sthelenas.net](mailto:Dawn@sthelenas.net) or [Stefanie@sthelenas.net](mailto:Stefanie@sthelenas.net)



# Celebrating Learning in Lent 2023

## Lenten Dinner Series:

**Adults will study Jonah the reluctant prophet  
Great Room, Wendler Hall at 6:00 pm**

St. Helena's will once again host a 5-week series of Lenten dinners accompanied by programs for children, youth, and adults on Wednesday nights in Lent. This year we will be using the short story of **Jonah the reluctant prophet** to reflect on God's call to us and our spiritual journey. **The first Lenten dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 1. Evening prayer will proceed each meal. The catered dinner is free and open to the public.** Guest speakers will join St. Helena's clergy in leading the adults while children and youth will have their own separate programs. **Bring a friend and come to dinner!** Stay tuned for more details.



# Celebrating Men's Ministry

The Men of St. Helena's is for all men who come to St. Helena's including visitors and newcomers. We get together regularly for fellowship, Bible Study and dinner gatherings.

**Men's Bible Study meets Thursday mornings at 7:30 am** in Annex West building located on Rock Street. Currently the men are studying the book of Psalms.

**We also have a monthly dinner** at someone's home or a restaurant, usually a cookout.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Larry Kroeger at [kroeger2@gvvc.com](mailto:kroeger2@gvvc.com) who can also provide additional information and directions to the monthly dinners.



# Celebrating Women's Ministry



*Beloved* by Linda Crossan,

This coming year is filled with wondrous possibilities to encounter God's presence and immense goodness. **All women of St. Helena's are invited to participate in planned activities: Bible Studies, Quiet Days, a retreat at Mustang Island, and host the incredible Decades Dinner.**

We have **two specific seven-week Bible studies just for women of St. Helena's.**

- The first began January 11 and meets in the Parish Hall at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm weekly until Ash Wednesday.
- The second begins April 26, embarking on a seven-week study of women in Scripture. Please join us

## **SAVE THESE DATES:**

**April 29, we will host a Quiet Day** starting at 9:00 am. The very gifted and talented team of leaders is already planning a day focused on spiritual direction and spiritual practices to widen our perspectives of Christ's presence and deepen our relationships with Christ and each other. This day promises to be one filled with new ways to encounter God. Please join us. Location TBD.

**September 29 - Oct 1, we will embark on a journey to Mustang Island Conference Center for an all women's retreat.** This weekend will be a time to laugh, rest, play, be in God's Word, and share in the fellowship of Christ. The beach has long been one of those thin spaces for me where the Kingdom of Heaven intertwines with earth in a way that makes the presence of God incredibly palpable. I am already praying that it will become a very thin space for us all during this retreat. Please join us.

**November 9, we will host the incredibly inspirational Decades Dinner.** The gifted and talented team is already generating ideas and plans to make this a memorable evening for everyone. If you've never been to a Decades Dinner, mark your calendars. You won't want to miss it. Please join us.

*Women of St. Helena's, you are all invited to experience the love of God in the unity of Christ through study, formation, and fellowship. We want to build a community ground in the deepest joy and most abundant life possible.*

***Mother Jamie***





# Celebrating Women's Bible Study

The room buzzed with energy as women gathered together to study The Gospel of John for Bible study. The excitement to be together again was palpable and incredibly invigorating. Forty-seven women filled the Parish Hall at 11:00 am and twenty-four more came together at 6:00 pm on January 11, the first meeting of this seven week series. **We are hungry for God's word and we are thirsty for God's presence.** As I looked around the room, I stood in awe as I watched a room full of women open their Bibles to encounter Christ, the Word of God. **God's presence is most certainly alive and active at St. Helena's.**

Women of St. Helena's, God is invigorating us with new and abundant life. May we respond to all that God is inviting us into by coming together and celebrating God's promises.

*Mother Jamie*





# Celebrating Young Adults Ministry

The **Young Adult Ministry, better known as YAMs**, is a group of '20 somethings' finding community and fellowship. This past year we had many great bible studies led by Father Brian. Many of these were studies of songs and how they related to certain bible verses. Intriguing and awesome! We ended the year making cookies with the new leadership of Cayce Mann. 2023 will see us continue bible studies as well as fellowship events sprinkled in throughout the year.



## Save the Date:

For **February**, YAMs will attend a college and young adult retreat at camp capers the 3rd-5th. (RSVP and/or email Cayce questions at [cayce@sthelenas.net](mailto:cayce@sthelenas.net))

For **March**, we will have bible study on March 5th after the 11 o'clock service so about 12:30. Location TBD.

# Celebrating Seniors Ministry



**It has been a joy to see seniors making friends and being creative this last year.**

Everyone is invited to participate and become a part of these fun activities in 2023! So pass the word...this is your time to shine! Join us for: Art Haus Classes, "Thinking of You" Art Cards, Ukuladies Group. Flower Ministry, Seasonal Luncheons, Crochet & Knitting, Special Speakers, and more.

Contact Pat for more information at [seniors@sthelenas.net](mailto:seniors@sthelenas.net)

# Seniors Ministry Christmas Fun



# Celebrating Lay Eucharistic Visitors

“Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask for this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.” (BCP, 395)

Seven Lay Eucharistic Visitors are ready and joyfully willing to support our parishioners through the fellowship of love, prayer, and sharing the Eucharist.

**If you or someone you know needs a eucharistic visit, please contact Mother Jamie at [jamie@sthelenas.net](mailto:jamie@sthelenas.net).**



# Celebrating St. Helena's School

St. Helena's Episcopal School had a successful 2022! The hallways are always full of happy chatter and joyful staff.

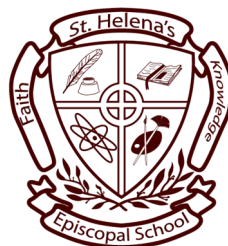
## Some of Our Successes for 2022:

- All of our classes were full
- We added **new members to our staff**
- We updated our **security** measures
- We had **3 weeks of super fun summer camp**
- Our staff attended the National Association of Episcopal Schools Biennial Conference in San Antonio
- Our Head of School presented at the **NAES Biennial Conference** in conjunction with other heads from other states
- We came out of the pandemic **healthy & strong**

**Thank you for your support!**

*Tiffany Jureczki*

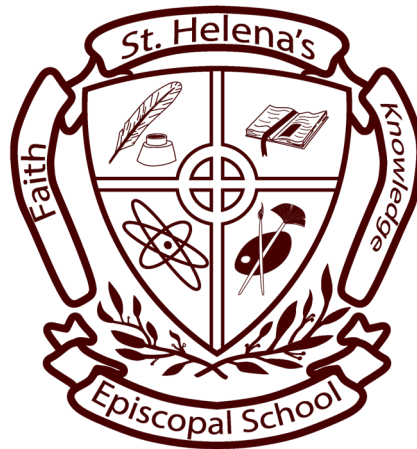
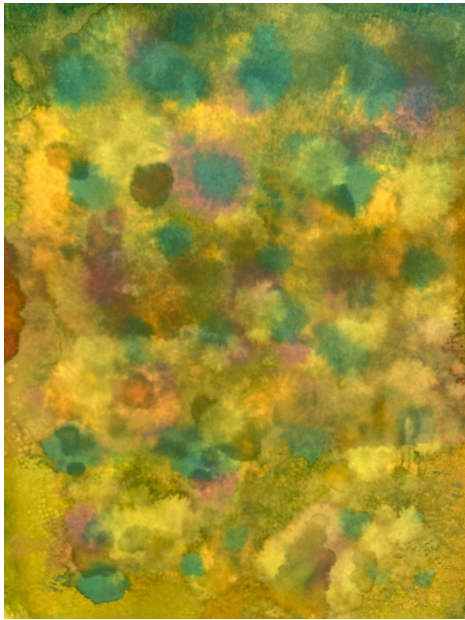
**Save the Date - School Art Show Thursday, April 20, 5:00-6:30pm, in the Great Room**



# Celebrating Art at St. Helena's School



We asked our students to submit some 'spiritually exciting' drawings. Enjoy!



# Discernment of a Bishop for West Texas

In May of 2022, The Rt. Rev. David M. Reed, Bishop of West Texas, announced his intention to retire in 2023 and called for the election of his successor. The Diocesan Standing Committee formed a Bishop Nominating Committee and went to work creating a nomination and discernment process that will result in the election of a new Bishop for West Texas. Clergy and lay leaders from all over the country were invited to submit names of potential nominees. Through prayer, a series of interviews, a discernment retreat, and completion of thorough background screenings, the Bishop Nominating Committee named three nominees for Bishop of West Texas:

+The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector of St. John's, New Braunfels.

+The Rev. Alex Montes-Vela, Missioner for Congregational Vitality & New Initiatives for the Diocese of Texas.

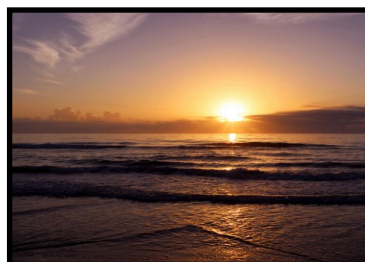
+The Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Rector of St. Helena's Church & School, Boerne.

**During the weekend of January 27-29, a series of Discernment Forums will be held throughout the Diocese for people to meet the Nominees and hear directly from them. The closest forum to St. Helena's will be at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in San Antonio on Sunday, January 29 at 4:00pm. You are invited to attend. St. Thomas' is located at the intersection of Loop 1604 & Hwy 281 N. (1416 N. Loop 1604 E.)**

On Saturday, February 18, the Annual Council of the Diocese of West Texas will elect one of the three Nominees to be Bishop-Elect. Clergy and Lay Delegates from each congregation in the Diocese will cast ballots until a nominee receives a simple majority of the Clergy Delegates and the Lay Delegates on the same ballot. The Bishop-Elect must then receive consent from a majority of the Bishops and Standing Committees in The Episcopal Church. The Bishop-Elect will be consecrated Bishop on July 8, 2023. You are invited to visit the Diocese of West Texas web page to learn more about this process, about the nominees, and about the timeline, at [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org). You are also invited to pray for the diocese, the nominees, and their families throughout this process.

## A Prayer for the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

*Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, you have called us to a life-giving fellowship in the Diocese of West Texas: Encourage and build up in us the love of Christ Jesus that we might continue to strengthen the legacy of those who have tended and led this diocese with godly courage; look graciously upon us and on your whole Church; by your Spirit, guide the Standing Committee, the delegates, and the clergy who shall discern the one you call to be a bishop for our diocese; send us a faithful shepherd who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.*



*South Padre Beach at Sunrise by Andrea Moscato*