

Cross-Finder

March 2023



We, the Family of St. Helena's,
Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Welcome all God's Children
to Grow with us in Grace and
Proclaim the Good News
of Jesus Christ.

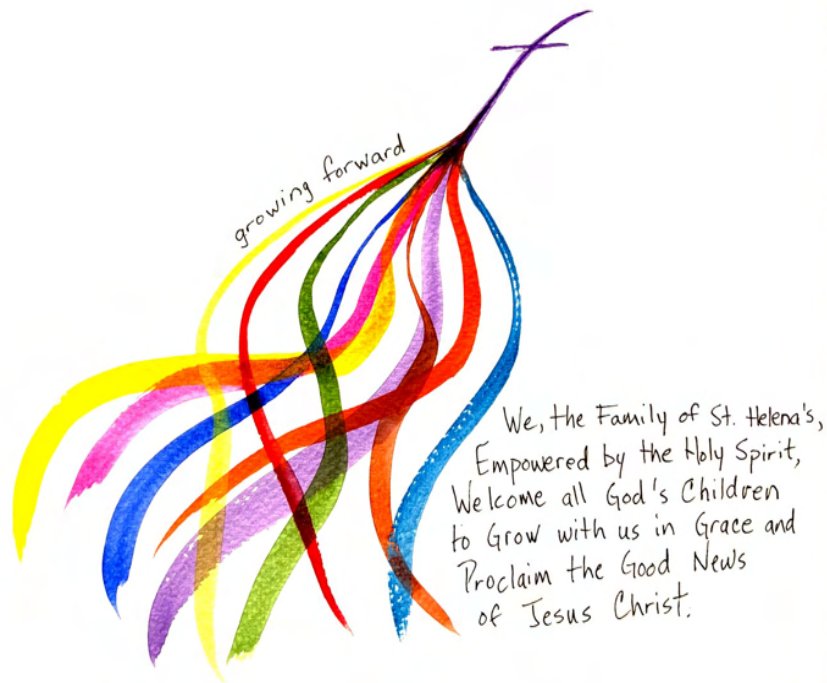
St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

410 N Main St, Boerne, TX 78006

About our cover

*Our gratitude goes to Mary Ann Simmons for her interpretive watercolor painting of “**Growing Forward**” our theme for St. Helena’s transition as Father David moves into his role as Bishop Coadjutor-elect.*

The colored lines illustrate the current and future spirit-led growth of our many ministries as our experienced staff and dedicated parishioners continue to fulfill our Mission Statement.



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From The Rector

St. Helena's Church & School have begun a journey together. With my election as Bishop, a transition journey has begun. We have left the comfort of what we know well as we have served together, and we are entering new and somewhat unknown territory. This time in our parish life is a time for us to do what our mission statement calls us to do: Grow in Grace.



In the books of Exodus and Numbers, we read the story of the Israelites on a similar journey. With God's help they had fled slavery in Egypt, crossed the Red Sea on dry land, and made a covenant with God at Mt. Sinai. Then began a wilderness journey to the promised land. Along that journey they sometimes struggled, sometimes feared, sometimes had faith challenges, and sometimes wished they could just go back to Egypt where life was at least predictable.

Yet even though they struggled in the wilderness, it was there that the Israelites were formed as a people. In the wilderness they learned to trust God to provide what they needed. In the wilderness they learned to delegate leadership. In the wilderness they learned to work together as they slowly but surely moved toward a brighter future. In the wilderness the people discovered new life with God.

During this time of transition there will be times when the St. Helena's Family will feel like we are in the wilderness. This wilderness transition time will be an opportunity for us to grow in grace as we learn to trust God to provide, as we pray for our leadership, as we reflect on our values, and as we dream dreams about our future. We too will discover new life.

I encourage you to pray daily for our parish family on this journey. I especially encourage you to ask for God to pour out the abundance of God's grace on us. And I urge you to practice grace in the transition: graceful living, graceful communication, graceful presence, grace with our leadership, grace with newcomers, graceful participation, graceful generosity, grace with our staff, grace with one another, grace in disagreement...And may we welcome all God's Children to grow with us in grace and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Peace,
David+



April 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 (second floor of Wendler Hall); GH: Gathering Haus behind office; HS: History Sanctuary on Rock Street; PH - Parish Hall (basement of HS); WH: Wendler Hall on Johns Street; YH: Youth House on Rock Street. Calendar may change.						1
April 2 Palm Sunday Services at: 7:45 am, HS 9:00 am, GR 11:00 am, HS YAMS Bible Study	April 3 Eucharist noon, HS	April 4 Eucharist noon, HS Ukuladies practice, 12-4 pm, AW	April 5 Eucharist noon, HS 4-5:30 pm after school program, CMC/YH 5:30 pm children's choir, Choir Room, PH 6:00 pm High School Youth, YH 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	April 6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist, 7:00 pm HS	April 7 Good Friday Liturgy and Reading of the Passion Narrative, noon, HS	April 8 First Easter Service with Candlelight, Baptism, and Holy Communion, 6:00 pm, HS
April 9 Easter Sunday Services at: 7:00 am, Barn 9:00 am, Barn 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am, HS	April 10 Office Closed	April 11 Ukuladies at Cibolo Nursing and Rehab 1:30-3:30pm	April 12 4-5:30 pm after school program, CMC/YH 5:30 pm children's choir. Choir Room, PH 6:00 pm High School Youth, YH 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	April 13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	April 14	April 15
April 16 Sunday Services Father David's Last Sunday	April 17 1 -2:30 pm PH, Art Haus	April 18 Confirmation (4:30-5:30 pm) YH Vestry 6:00 pm, GH	April 19 Same programs as shown above	April 20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW 11:00 am Room 1 PH Crochet/ Knit	April 21	April 22
April 23 Sunday Services 7:45 am, HS 9:00 am, GR 11:00 am, HS	April 24	April 25 Ukuladies, noon, AW Confirmation class 4:30-5:30 YH	April 26 11:00 am and 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study, PH Same programs as shown above	April 27 Earth 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW Seniors Wild-flower Drive and Lunch at PoPo's	April 28	April 29 Quiet Day from 9:00-2:00 pm at Cibolo Nature Center
April 30 Sunday Services (same as above)	Save The Date: June 12-15, 2023 Vacation Bible School A free program open to the public for 2 year olds through rising 5th graders.					

Why Going Digital is a Good Thing to Do

So far, we have 100 families going digital. This saves:

- 8,400 11x17 sheets of paper
- \$1,070 in mailing fees

Try it out. Go to <https://sthelenas.net>. At the top of the page, click ABOUT, then click 'NEWSLETTER'.



As you look through this Cross-Finder, where you see this logo, it indicates that there are additional photos or information on the topic in the digital online version found on our website.

Send the link to friends/family



View on tablet, cell or computer

See way more photos!



If you want to be removed from our US Postal mailing list, and receive Cross-Finder digitally, please email 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.

A Sticky Fun Day Making Pancake Syrup



Patty Calder and Karen Short leading the youth in learning the art of making syrup. Top right photo: Andrew, Wiley, Tristan, and Ainsley.

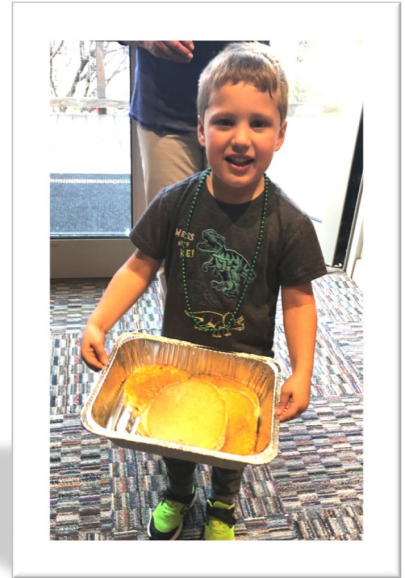
Their syrup graced our pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and bottles were sold for a donation of \$5.00. Speaking of Shrove Tuesday, did you know that Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before Lent. The term 'shrove' comes from Anglo-Saxon days when Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins).

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day>

Pancake Supper



Thanks to the
organizers
and cooks



See 13 more photos of the Pancake Supper in the digital version of Cross-Finder on our website: <https://sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter>

Pancake Supper



Pancake Supper



The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Meeting February 18, 2023



See more photos in the digital version of Cross-Finder on our website: <https://sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter>



The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

Meeting February 18, 2023



The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

Meeting February 18, 2023



Holy Week Schedule

From early times, the first Christians faithfully observed the events leading up to Christ's passion and resurrection. Some of the earliest liturgies in the Christian community developed around the Stations of the Cross. By worshipfully walking with Christ through the events of Holy Week we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. It also allows us to meditate upon the love of God for us and the redemption of the world through Jesus' death and resurrection. Keeping a holy Holy Week will make Easter filled with joy. Below and on the next page are the schedules of services at St. Helena's.

Father David



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2 - Palm Sunday, Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

7:45 am Historic Sanctuary, Rock Street

9:00 am Great Room in Wendler Hall, John's Street, nursery care is available

11:00 am Historic Sanctuary, nursery care is available

April 3,4,5 Mon-Wed, Noon, Holy Eucharist in the Historic Sanctuary

April 6 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist, stripping of the altar, overnight prayer vigil in the Historic Sanctuary, nursery care available for the service only

April 7- Good Friday

Noon, Good Friday Liturgy, Reading of the Passion Narrative, Historic Sanctuary

Easter Services



April 8 - Easter Saturday

6:00 pm - Candlelight, Baptism, Holy Communion, the first service of Easter in the Historic Sanctuary on Rock Street, nursery care is available on the first floor of the Historic Sanctuary.

April 9 - Easter Sunday

7:00 am - Sunrise Service and breakfast at the Barn, 508 N. Main (In case of bad weather the service will be in the Historic Sanctuary.)

9:00 am - Outdoor Easter Services at the Barn (bring lawn chairs) (If bad weather, the service will be in the Great Room of Wendler Hall on Johns Road.)

10:10 am - Easter Egg Hunt at The Barn and Breakfast

11:00 am - Traditional Easter Service in the Historic Sanctuary, nursery care is available

Children's Easter Fun



Prewrapped Easter candy donations are needed!
Please leave them in the cart by the outreach station, Room 1 of the Historic Sanctuary.



Children's Easter Egg Hunt
April 9th at 10:15!

Growing Forward

by Tommy Mathews, Sr. Warden

Greetings brothers and sisters! These are exciting and dynamic times in the life of our Parish family. Our spiritual lives and our physical world are full of opportunities to grow and blossom. Many of you may have heard me use the phrase "**Growing Forward**" when I have discussed the life of our Parish as Father David transitions into his new ministry as Bishop Elect and as we continue to answer Christ's call to our congregation. I want to take this opportunity to update you on a few Growing Forward transition items.

This past Thursday, March 2nd, your wardens, Vestry, and Clergy had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Reed and the diocesan transition officer Archdeacon Rev. Mike Besson. They laid out the process and timelines for naming an interim rector, appointment of a Search Committee Chair and Search Committee and the development of a new Parish Profile.

Bishop Reed reminded us that all things have a time and a season, and that for these moments in time, we should be celebrating Father David and Jacqui's ministry with us.

The other parts of the process have begun and will be working in the background. In due time we will update the Parish on their progress. Rev. Besson will preach at all three services on April 23rd and answer questions during the Sunday School hour. After the 11:00 service Rev. Besson will meet with the Vestry as we discuss and take the next steps in the process.

For now, let us celebrate Fr. David & Jacqui together and to open our eyes to the signs of new growth that surround us. All around the physical world is replete with signs of Spring with impending new growth, blossoms of opportunity, and the promise of new fruit. Plants are deepening roots, broadening their branches, increasing their height and breadth to new levels. Similarly, as we walk our Lenten journey we are called to reflect & deepen our spiritual roots, to be active and broaden our branches and to take our faith journey to new and exciting heights.

As we journey together through this Easter season may we always walk in love with Christ and be ever mindful that our best days lie ahead as we live into our the words of our Mission statement and, "...welcome all God's children to grow with us in grace and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ."

Growing Forward

Growing Forward in Faith by Mother Jamie

The cycle of Spring is here and new life buds all around us. Bluebonnets bloom along our byways and highways. Mountain laurels emit their fragrant offering. The red roses in my backyard blossom and bestow their show. Birds chirp at daybreak. New life is evident all around us. Change is in the air. The Easter Season brings much to be grateful for.

As we look around and notice all of the new life we are invited to encounter each day, we might offer our gratitude to God, the Creator and Redeemer of it all. We are invited to celebrate the opportunities for growth that abound before us. Change always presents opportunities for growth and new encounters.

Women of St. Helena's, let us accept the invitations and opportunities for new encounters as we grow forward in our faith together. Let us embrace this time of change as an invitation to encounter God in new and enchanting ways. Let us embrace this time of change as an opportunity to grow together in God's grace and love. Together, let us grow forward as we embrace change.



One of the ways we can express gratitude and accept God's invitations for growth is through the study of Scripture together. We began a good thing as we started the new year and we will continue this Easter season. This Spring, the women have new opportunities to gather to study Scripture, pray, and connect more deeply with Christ and each other.

- ◆ **Bible Study starting Wednesday, April 26th at 11:00AM and 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.** We will meet for six Wednesdays: April 26th through May 31st. Please join us anytime you are able. There is no need to commit to one specific meeting time. The study is entitled *God Sees Me: New Insight from Women in Scripture*. Please email jamie@sthelenas.net to let her know you are coming so she can create your personal study booklet. Your personal study booklet will be ready for you on April 26th.
- ◆ **Quiet Day, Saturday, April 29th, from 9-2 at Cibolo Nature Center.** We will explore what it means to be formed in spirit, through the Spirit. Our own Spiritual Director, Cindy Glick, will lead us as we explore various practices to connect us more deeply to the divine. Please be on the lookout for more details nearer to the date.

This new season as St. Helena's is an exciting one. Let us continue to walk in love together as we grow forward in faith.

Growing Forward

Music at St. Helena's



Left: Bryce Boddie leads the 9:00 am Contemporary Service with Paul on drums and Adam on guitar while Carol, Dana and Cynthia lead our songs.

Right and below: Lynn Lowry leads the adult Chancel Choir and the St. Helena's Singers. She helps our younger choir members develop a love of music while learning how to perform within the context of the Episcopal Church liturgy.



Growing Forward

Adult Spiritual Growth and Support

LENT DINNER SERIES

If you haven't joined us, Come!

5:30 Evening Prayer, Historic Chapel on Rock Street

6:00 free catered dinner

6:30 Speaker

March 22: Jonah Story: Spit Out

Speaker: The Rev. Allie Melancon, Curate at St. Thomas'

March 29: Jonah Story: It Worked! Darn it! ‘

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Ben Nelson, Chaplain of TMI-E



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM STARTS TODAY: FAITHFUL DYING IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

In a “death-denying” culture, it is often hard to think about the inevitable process of death as part of faithful living. We tend to reduce death to a biological problem over and above the Christian perspective that includes a spiritual reality.

Join us for Adult Sunday school at 10:10 in the Great Room as we discuss Faithful Dying in Christian Life. Lent is an ideal time to “remember we are dust and to dust we shall return.”

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)

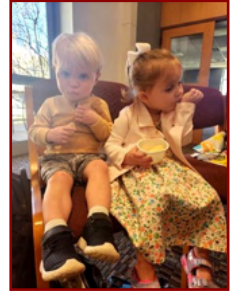
Seven Lay Eucharistic Visitors are ready and joyfully willing to support our parishioners through the fellowship of love, prayer, and sharing the Eucharist.

If you or someone you know desires a eucharistic visit, please contact Mother Jamie at jamie@sthelenas.net.

Growing Forward

Children Belong in Church by Stefanie Nitschke

As the Minister for Young Families and mom of 2 young children (and another one on the way), you might be surprised to hear me admit that *bringing my children to church Sunday mornings sometimes feels like pumping myself up for a marathon, and I've never seen the course before*. Even on the best of days, you too will most likely come out of church with sweat-filled armpits and an aching back, particularly if you have tiny terrors, oh I mean toddlers. You might leave some Sunday mornings hearing about 17% of the service and questioning *why you ever thought it was a good idea to come with a teething 1-year-old, a potty training 2.5-year-old and an opinionated 5-year-old*. You will think to yourself how “virtual” church seems like such a better option, wearing your pajamas and headphones while your kids run around the house, and everyone will get more out of it.



But I promise you: Children belong in church! And I can say that, firmly and loudly, on a Sunday after I fought my willful, extremely powerful, tiny toddler who screamed and fought his way through the 9:00 am service. Whether I feel like it or not, the benefits of bringing your children to church are invaluable and will turn this difficult season into one of the most joyous experiences you will have. Let's look at these, and I hope they encourage you each week as you faithfully take on the responsibility of bringing your children to church to hear God's Word and grow in faith.



Benefit 1: Children see that church is important.



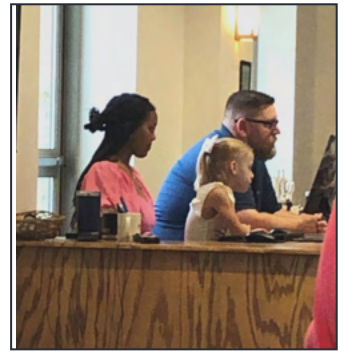
We prioritize things that are importance in our lives: work, sports, hobbies. Church should be at the front of that list. Children are capable of understanding what is important in their lives. Meals, baths, putting away toys...these are all routines that are consistent in their daily lives. Church should be as well.

Consistently attending church every Sunday shows your children that this is an important activity that takes priority in your family's life.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Benefit 2: Children can memorize prayers and songs.

When children are in church service every Sunday, they hear many of the same prayers and songs throughout the service. Over time, they will start singing and praying along. My two year olds favorite song is the doxology and knows almost every word. Both my boys will randomly hum church songs throughout the day, surprising me even with how much they remember.



Benefit 3: Children can learn how to behave (a certain way!) during church service.

Public places require a certain type of behavior from children that we, as their parents, work hard to teach them. We do this by exposing them to these situations and teaching our little ones the proper behavior. Church service also demands a certain behavior that children learn over time. Church does require little ones to be quieter than they are accustomed to, and to remain in one location for a period of time (sounds like similar behavior needed to go out to eat as a family). *Children learn proper developmental skills like following directions, mimicking others good behavior, sitting still, listening, and participating along with others.* These are wonderful skills for young children to develop for not only church, but for other settings outside of the service. Church is a unique environment that children can be exposed to peer and adult interactions, morals, and role models.

Benefit 4: Children become part of the church community.



Children develop a sense of belonging when they become comfortable in a setting. The more your children are in church, the more they will feel a part of this community that is bigger than them, bigger than their home. That feeling of church fellowship will stay with them as they grow up. Church can become a second home to them, a place they feel comfortable, welcomed and loved!

There are many benefits of bringing your children to church, both seen and unseen. It's not an easy responsibility for parents, especially with young babies and toddlers. *Parents may often feel like the best thing to do is put off church attendance by a few years, at least. Those "few years", however are so important in a young family's life.*

Whatever age your children might be, going to church will encourage and strengthen your family now and in the years to come.



Growing Forward

Children & Youth Participating, Learning and Growing in Christ



Campbell and Ainsley

Sven carries the Bible



Jack reading Lessons & Carols



Maddie and Hailey lead with St. Helena's Wednesday After School Program



Choir Practice for upcoming musical



Vacation Bible School



Children's sermons



Bethlehem

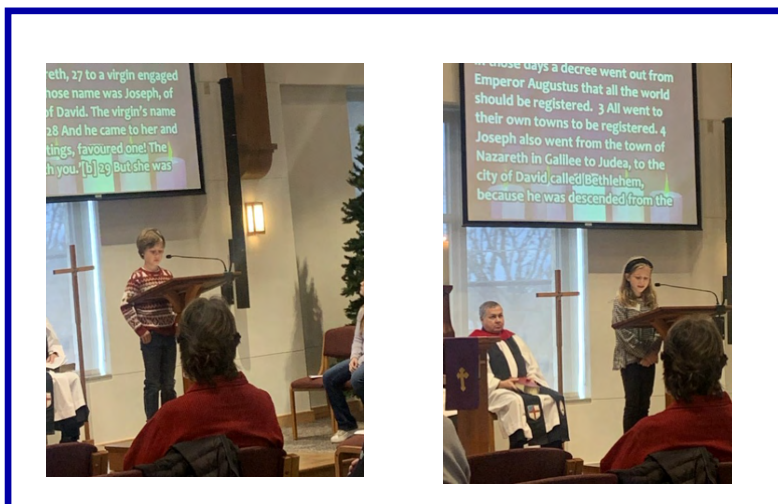


See more photos in the digital version of Cross-Finder on our website: <https://sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter>



Growing Forward

Children & Youth Participating, Learning and Growing in Christ



Luke and Grace reading Lessons & Carols



Amy and Natalie



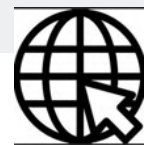
Youth attend Installation of Father Brian Fox at St. Paul's, San Antonio

Growing Forward

Happening March 4, 2023



See more photos in the digital version of Cross-Finder on our website: <https://sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter>



Growing Forward

Happening March 4, 2023



Growing Forward

Youth

Confirmation

Dear 6th– 12th graders,

God loves you uniquely and personally. God wants to be with you, and He asks only that His love be returned. In a desire to imprint this truth indelibly on your heart, it is important to develop key tools as you continue your faith journey and confirm the promises made on your behalf at baptism. Join us as we walk this spiritual path during our Spring Confirmation Class.

Class dates

April 18th, April 25th, May 2nd, 9th & 16th
from 4:30 -5:30 p.m. in the Youth House

Confirmation retreat

May 27th

Class requirements

Participation in discussion

Participation in activities

Memorize the Lord's Prayer

Memorize the Nicene Creed

Provide birth and baptism information

Attend St. Helena's Confirmation Retreat

May 27th from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Upon completion of classes, make the personal choice of confirmation

By Bishop Reed on May 28th

Contact Dawn McLendon to register (dawn@sthelenas.net)

Growing Forward

Youth Holding Vigil

The teens of the church are invited to take a new step on their faith journey, by participating in our annual overnight vigil.

Youth will gather from 4:00 am-6:00 am

**To hold vigil in
stillness,
prayer,
song,
and**

letting the Holy Spirit sink in.

Contact Ms. Dawn to sign up or for more information.

Growing Forward - YAMS

St. Helena's **Young Adult Ministry, YAMs (a group of young adults (22+) seeking community and fellowship) at a retreat** with other college and young adult groups in the diocese of West Texas, enjoying worshiping and finding community through fellowship, disk golf, and making chicken and dumplings.

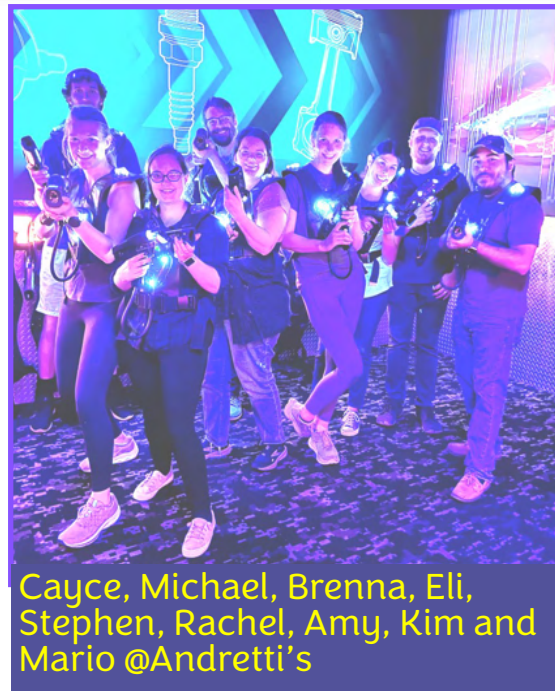
Save the dates:

April 2, 12:30 pm Bible study. Later in April, the group will do an Escape Room.

May 7, 12:30 pm Bible study. Later in May, a game night is planned.

Newcomers are welcomed to all events.

Email Cayce (cayce@sthelenas.net) for info on locations and times.



Cayce, Michael, Brenna, Eli, Stephen, Rachel, Amy, Kim and Mario @Andretti's

Growing Forward

Seniors ... What If?

by Helen Taylor

What if our lives were artworks re-presented back to God?

In his book, *Art and Faith*, Makoto Fujimura, speaks of “the theology of making - that making is a form of knowing.” **St. Helena’s ART HAUS offers a variety of activities to explore and to connect with the creator that dwells within us all.** For me, it has provided a path into daily journaling and acknowledging the significant and not-so-significant days of my life recorded in words as well as images. Just as God the Creator knows me I have come to better know God through participating in making space in my life by quietly sitting with pen, paper and paint to be with Him. We welcome all God’s Children to grow with us in the creative journey of making art. We provide the supplies and you provide the “gift.”

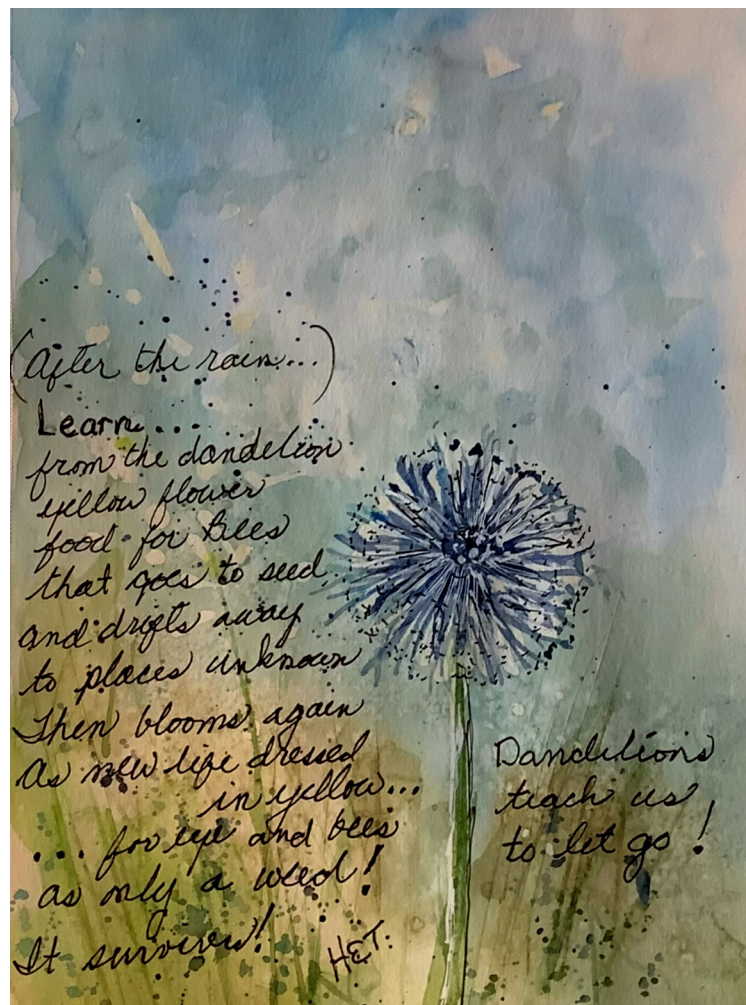


See more photos of art by Helen Taylor in the digital version of Cross-Finder on our website: <https://sthelenas.net/>



Growing Forward

Seniors ... What If?



Growing Forward

Seniors Schedule for April

Our active Seniors Ministry is for all who consider themselves 'seniors' and those who enjoy hanging out with seniors. They sponsor events and monthly lunch outings. Watch Constant Contact emails for details. If you are not receiving this weekly email, please contact Pat at seniors@sthelenas.net or call the church office (830-249-3228).

The Art Haus group meets twice a month to explore what God is saying to them using art. This group welcomes newcomers regardless of how 'artistic' they may be. They also create small cards which are donated to the parish family for free. These are kept on a rack outside Room 1 on the first floor of the Historic Sanctuary.

The knitting and crochet group welcomes newcomers even those who just want to come and learn how to knit or crochet. They make blankets, prayer shawls and other gifts that are donated.

Seniors Schedule for April:

April 11th - 1:30- 3:30pm - Ukuladies Perform for Cibolo Nursing and Rehab Center

April 17th - 12-3:30pm - Art Haus Class - Parish Hall

April 20th - 11-noon - Knitting and Crochet - Room One

April 27th - Earth Day Wildflower Drive, make a stop at the Comfort Nursery and Lunch at PoPo's - to reserve a seat on the church bus, please email Pat or call the church office.



Growing Forward

Free Birds

Free Birds/Aka Empty Nesters is a fellowship group geared toward singles and couples whose children are out of the house, or almost out of the house, or who never had children in the house. The group gathers regularly to meet for fellowship and light snacks. **We welcome newcomers!**



Growing Forward

Daughters of the King Reinstallation Feb 12, 2023



The St. Helena's Order announces the addition of our member of the Daughters of the King,, Linda Wilkinson.

Members of The Order of the Daughters of the King® are women and girls between the ages of 7 and 107 who desire a closer walk with the Lord. There are currently 16 Daughters in our Chapter. We collect prayers from prayer boxes located in both sanctuaries, add them to the church's prayer list and pray daily for them.

Through membership in our Order, women are:

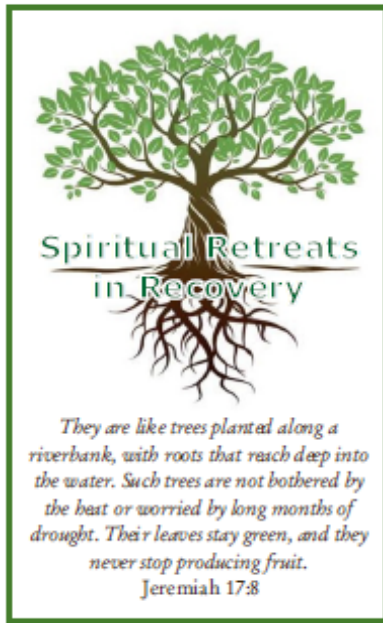
Strengthened through prayer.

Helped to learn through study.

Provided community with other Daughters.

For information on DOK, go to <https://www.doknational.org/page/AbouttheOrder>

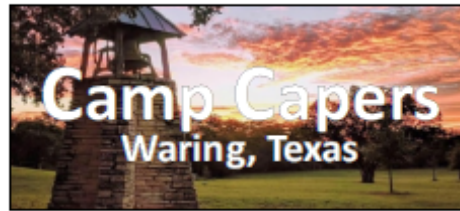
If you are interested in joining the Daughters of the King (DOK) please contact the church office.



Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #119

"Breathing Under Water"

May 5-7, 2023



Spiritual Retreats in Recovery provides a safe place to deepen one's spiritual journey - open to all in recovery from alcoholism or other abuses, as well as to families and friends affected by the disease of addiction. All members of twelve-step programs (AA, Al-anon, NA, CA, ACA, etc.) are welcome to share their experience, strength, and hope with each other in a community of love and support, exploring *what it was like, what happened, and what we are like now.*

Rev. Sam Hunnicutt, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Junction, will be our Spiritual Leader, guiding us through the retreat's recovery theme, *Breathing Underwater: A Spiritual Adventure in Recovery.* Based on the book from famed author Richard Rohr, a complimentary copy will be included with registration. On-site services, topical spiritual insight, and pastoral care are provided. In addition to various break-out session offerings, ample time is set aside for individual exploration. All friends in recovery are welcome, and no church affiliation is required.



Prudent on-site COVID protocol will be observed. We will be treated to warm hospitality, comfortable lodging, delicious food, and thoughtful presentations in this beautiful hill country setting along the Guadalupe River.

"Recovery happens in community. At this retreat, I enjoyed the awesome presence of God through others in recovery -- and in a beautiful setting. It doesn't get any better!"

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"A great, relaxing weekend. I experienced the spiritual healing of the group, and enjoyed quiet time with my Higher Power in one of His most wondrous creations. In comfort with great food!"

Accommodations: Lodge, \$450 for single occupancy, \$250 per person for double; Cabin, \$155 per person (4-6); Commuter day rate (no lodging), \$100 per person. Pricing includes 2 nights and 5 full meals (Fri-Sun). Registration information can be found at dwtx.org/events, scrolling down to the Spiritual Retreat in Recovery dates.

Registration opens Monday, March 20 and closes Wednesday, May 3.

Limited scholarship funds are available based on need on a first come first served basis. Scholarship recipients will be expected to contribute a portion of their own funds to this program. Please contact the Registration Coordinator at 210-367-9584.



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**Office of The Bishop
The Rt. Rev. David M. Reed**

**The Episcopal Diocese
of West Texas**

The Bishop Jones Center

March 8, 2023

Dear Friends,

God is good! The Diocese of West Texas, as you know, recently elected the Rev. Dr. David G. Read, rector of St. Helena's, Boerne, as Bishop Coadjutor to succeed me at the time of my retirement.

David is a son of this Diocese, having grown up and served his entire ordained ministry here. Your church played a significant role in his spiritual and priestly formation and helped prepare him for the ministry he is about to take on.

It has long been the custom in our Diocese that the congregations where the bishop-elect was raised and has served, contribute pieces of gold (typically unwanted and unused jewelry) for the crafting of the new bishop's episcopal ring and pectoral cross (the cross worn over vestments). I encourage you to make this known within your church and invite parishioners to donate if they are able. For clarification, 10k, 12k, 14k, and 18k pieces are all usable. A professional jeweler will create the new ring and cross, according to a design developed by David. Of course, monetary donations are also welcome from individuals and/or the whole church.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING THESE DONATIONS IS SUNDAY, MAY 7.

Donated gold should be delivered to St. Helena's Church, Boerne, during office hours, and given to Amy Ryland or another staff member. Financial contributions should be made payable to St. Helena's, noted "Coadjutor's cross and ring" and mailed to the church at 410 N Main St, Boerne, 78006-2040. (If delivering gold to Boerne is a problem, please contact Leigh Saunders in the diocesan office, and we will arrange to have it picked up and delivered.)

Many gold pieces may come with a story or special memory. If so, donors are encouraged to write that down and it will be given to David, thus becoming part of the story of his cross and ring.

I am very aware that the pectoral cross I wear represents the love and support of so many people around the Diocese. Throughout my years as a bishop, it has been an important and beautiful reminder to me that I have not been called to do this ministry on my own. Also, Patti and I find satisfaction in knowing that our high school class rings are part of Bishop Gary Lillibridge's cross!

Please make this invitation known to your congregation as soon as possible and in whatever ways you find most effective. Thank you very much for your assistance with this. God bless you!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

David M. Reed
Bishop of West Texas

P.O. Box 6885 • San Antonio, TX 78209 • 111 Torcido Dr. (210/888) 824-5387 • Fax (210) 824-1312

St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

P.O. Box 1765

Boerne, TX 78006