Cross-Finder

May 2023



Easter Day 2023

St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

410 N Main St, Boerne, TX 78006

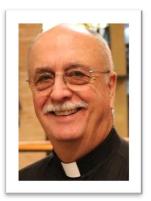
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A Note From Our Interim Rector

I want to thank you all for the joyous and beautiful welcome you extended to me on my first Sunday at St. Helena's. I can honestly admit that this is one of the most friendly and welcoming communities I have ever met. Your love for one another and your joyful welcome of the newcomer is so very evident.

For a little background on me, after twenty years in full time ministry I retired at the end of 2016. Within a few short months Bishop Reed called me into his office and said he wanted to start a school to educate men and women to be ordained as Bi-Vocational priests. These new priests would serve small congregations that could not afford a full-time clergy person. He asked if I would consider being the dean of this new



school and get it started. I knew nothing about starting a school, but it is hard to say no to your Bishop! The Iona School for Ministry has graduated nine students who are now ordained priests serving throughout the diocese.

About this same time Bishop Reed also asked me to be the Interim Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Harlingen, TX. That would be the first of five churches I would serve as Interim Rector over the next seven years, including St. Helena's. Being the Dean of the Iona School for Ministry and being an Interim Rector are what I love doing. One is preparing men and women for the ordained ministry and the other is shepherding congregations through the transition from one leader to the next.

St. Helena's is a very special place for me, and Fr. David has been my trusted friend for many years. The same church, St. Francis, San Antonio, formed us as young men and that same church sent us both off to seminary. Since I went to seminary after a career in business, David was a seasoned priest by the time I graduated from seminary. I saw David not only as a friend, but as a trusted mentor, and would visit with him often about the many things I needed to know about ministry. Much of the experiences and examples he shared with me came from St. Helena's.

Joyously continue growing forward

Through the eyes of Fr. David, I have watched this church grow and prosper. I have seen how you have welcomed the newcomer and loved one another. I have rejoiced at the mission work you do both here and afar. I know the future holds even more great things for you as long as you put your trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. In this community, St. Helena's is his witness of what a Christian fellowship should be. Joyously continue growing forward and know that God is leading you into a bright new future with the next leader he will bring your way.

God bless you all, Fr. John Badders+

May-June 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. 6pm High School in YH.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gathering Haus beh	ind office; HS:	History Sanctuar	try Center on Rock St; GR ry on Rock Street; PH - Pa endar may change. VBS -	rish Hall (basemer	nt of HS); WH: We	* *
May 14 Sunday Services Newcomers Class 10:10 PH	May 15	May 16 Ukuladies, 1- 3 AW - meet weekly thru the month Vestry 6:00 pm, GH	May 17 Eucharist 10am, HS 11am/6pm Women's Bible Study, PH 4-5:30 pm after school program, CMC/YH 6:30 Tell Me the Truth - St. Helena's Singers Performance HS	May 18 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW Seniors Lunch at 11:30 am Dodging Duck Restaurant	May 19	May 20 Parish Profile Workshop (10-noon) GR
May 21 Sunday Services Newcomers Class 10:10 PH	May 22	May 23	May 24 - Last day of school Eucharist 10am, HS 11am/6pm Women's Bible Study, PH 7:00 pm Chancel	May 25 7:30 am Men's Bible Study, AW	May 26	May 27
May 28 Confirmation Sunday	May 29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	May 30 Ukuladies, 1- 3 AW	May 31 Eucharist 10am, HS 11am/6pm Women's Bible Study, PH	June 1	June 2	June 3
June 4 Sunday Services	June 5	June 6	June 7 Eucharist 10am, HS	June 8	June 9	June 10
June 11 Sunday Services	June 12 VBS 9-2	June 13 VBS 9-2	June 14 Eucharist 10am, HS VBS 9-2	June 15 VBS 9-2	June 16	June 17
June 18 Sunday Services	June 19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	June 20	June 21 Eucharist 10am, HS	June 22	June 23 Mission trip leaves for South Dakota	June 24
June 25 Sunday Services	June 26	June 27	June 28 Eucharist 10am, HS	June 29	June 30	June 31

July 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. 6pm High School in YH.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AW : Annex West on Re Gathering Haus behin Johns Street; YH : You	d office; HS: Histo	ory Sanctuary o	n Rock Street; PH -	Parish Hall (basemen	t of HS); WH: W	, ,
						July 1
July 2 Sunday Services Mission trip returns from South Dakota	July 3 CHURCH OF- FICE CLOSED	July 4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	July 5 Eucharist 10am, HS	July 6	July 7	July 8 Installation of The Rev. David G. Read, Bishop of West Texas
July 9 Sunday Services	July 10	July 11	July 12 Eucharist 10am, HS	July 13 Young Families Beach Retreat	July 14 Young Fami- lies Beach Retreat	July 15 Young Families Beach Retreat
July 16 Sunday Services Young Families Beach Retreat	July 17 Fine Arts Academy 9-2 pm	July 18 Fine Arts Academy 9-2 pm	July 19 Eucharist 10am, HS Fine Arts Academy	July 20 Fine Arts Academy 9-2 pm	July 21 Fine Arts Academy 9-2 pm	July 22
July 23 Sunday Services	July 24	July 25	July 26 Eucharist	July 27	July 28	July 29
July 30 Sunday Services	July 31					

SAVE THE DATE:

Camp Wacky - August 1-3 (9-2 pm) School Blessing of the Backpacks - August 6 Pie Day - Aug 13

Why Not Go Digital?

Save paper!

Increase our outreach by reducing mailing costs!

See more than 20 photos of our church family not shown in the paper version!





View on tablet, cell or computer







If you want to help St. Helena's Church by saving mailing costs and paper, please notify Devvie and request to be removed from our US Postal mailing list, and to receive Cross-Finder digitally.

Devvie's email is: devvie@sthelenas.net

Include:

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

Growing Forward

by Tommy Mathews, Sr. Warden



These are truly exciting, dynamic, and growing times at St. Helena's.

Each and every day we are growing and deepening our faith and ministries. Each sunrise offers us the opportunity to branch out and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. As you know over the last few months, I have been asking that we "**Grow Forward**" during this time of transition and as a parish family we have been doing that very thing.

One way we grow is by deepening our roots, much in the way that a tree drives its roots deeper and deeper into the ground to make the tree stronger, able to withstand the winds that test it, able to spread its branches further and further. As the tree's tap root grows deeper into new soil, into new potential, the whole tree prospers. In many ways our Parish is like that tree and its deepening roots, its tap root. Let's think of **TAP**, as an acronym to guide us, a simple triad of letters **T-A-P**, which can serve us as a daily reminder to guide our collective and individual spiritual growth.

Let's explore the TAP acronym beginning with T or "t", where "t" symbolizes The one True Cross, where we should turn our focus every day.

The one True Cross serves as an ever-present reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us and of God's eternal and unconditional love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). May each of us set aside Time every day to be in conversation with God, lay our Troubles at the foot of The Cross, be gracious and give Thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Next in our acronym is A. As Christians we are called to <u>Act</u>, in fact to take <u>A</u>postolic Action.

Our parish family has been and remains in Action. Our campus is Alive with Activity, our summer is filled with mission work, Vacation Bible School, Activities for youth and adults.

Vestry has also engaged Ben Adam as our Architect to prepare the detailed design work to connect Wendler Hall and the Historic Sanctuary, so we may realize the many Accessibility benefits this project will provide.

We have an important step that will precede the construction of the connector, the remodel/ renovation of the Parish Hall. The Vestry has taken the Action to secure a guaranteed contract for this work and hopes to Accomplish the work this year while our school is on summer break. The Vestry has set aside a little over 2/3 of the funds for the remodel project and are extending an invitation to the congregation to raise the remaining balance. We need to raise at least \$100,000 to cover the cost of the Parish Hall remodel, any additional funds raised will be set aside for the larger connector project.

Growing Forward (continued)

Finally, we come to P. We are also very active <u>Planning</u> for our future.

The Parish Profile meeting is set for Saturday, May 20th 9:30-12:00, the Search Committee is being formed, as noted above we have Ben Adam working on the design for the Phase I connector project, there are Plans for numerous summer programs, mission trip, outreach, seniors' activities, multiple ministry events, and our worship calendar is Planned through the fall!

We are blessed to be members of an active and vibrant congregation. So, I ask you to grow your **T-A-P** roots; focused on "t" the Cross, taking Action, and Planning for our future.

Tommy

Growing Forward Our New Parish Hall









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Growing Forward

By Mother Jamie



This is a season of graduation for our families and our church.

As I write today, my son has just graduated from college with a degree in Electrical Engineering from The University of Texas. My youngest daughter will graduate from high school in just a few weeks. The season of graduation is well underway in our household. I know it is also well underway in many of your homes.

The season of graduation always comes with excitement and joy as we watch children flourish and grow into mature adults with vocations from God. It also comes with some bittersweet moments of reflection on cherished memories filled with nostalgia. We long for those sweet, best years of times gone by. We also look forward with great anticipation to what will become in their journey.

As I ponder this season of graduation in my family life, I also see a season of graduation upon the family of St. Helena's. St. Helena's community has grown exponentially in recent years. Just as a growing child must learn new things, the community of St. Helena's Church continues to learn new things.

While we remember sweet times of yesteryear that formed our church family, we also look forward with great anticipation to our journey forward. The best years of our parish family life are ahead. We stand at the cusp of a new era. We are invited to joyfully continue growing forward in the journey God has planned for us to expand God's Kingdom through our ministries at St. Helena's.

The Women of St. Helena's are forging ahead with plans to increase formation and fellowship opportunities. The Quiet-ish half-day lead by the extraordinary contemplative team that includes Cindy Glick, Mary Ann Simmons, Nancye Drukkler, Helen Taylor, and Jacqui Read was a great success. The day was so well received, the team is planning regular offerings of quiet-ish days throughout the year. Women's Bible study continues to grow and flourish as God weaves together the lives of faithful women in disciplined study of the Word.

For the Fall, the Women of St. Helena's have planned:

Mustang Island Conference Center retreat, 'God Sees Me' Sept 29 - Oct 1 (Ladies. I can already feel the buzz of excitement building in anticipation of what God will do at this conference with our faithful community of women.)

Decades Dinner, November 9th. I look forward to hearing from each woman representing her decade of life. The Great Room will be full of life and joy.

It is a joy and privilege to be a part of the Women of St. Helena's as we stand hand in hand, planning for an incredible future, and anticipating great things from our God growing forward.



Father David always wanted to do a joyous procession to welcome parishioners into our church much as Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem on this day. But weather and Covid had gotten in the way. This year, it was perfect! Banners, noise-makers, music and palms accompanied parishioners as we processed behind the cross of Christ from the Barn down Main Street to Wendler Hall.









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





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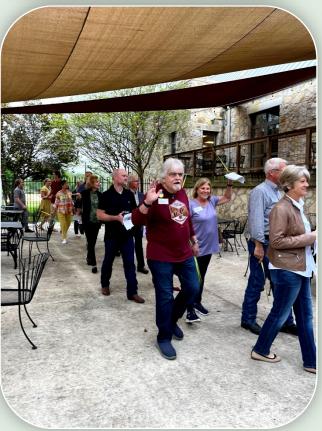












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Easter Vigil - Saturday Night

St. Helena's was blessed to perform five baptisms at the Easter Vigil Service. We welcome River, Auden, Opal, Cas and Riggin into our church family.

















Easter Sunrise Service, Baptism & Breakfast Thanks to Free Birds









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Easter Day Was Glorious





If your family had Easter photos taken by the photographer Easter Day, Devvie will email a link to you through Constant Contact which will allow you to view and download any photos you wish to keep. If you have any problem with the link, please call the church office. 830.249.3228





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

Easter Day Was Glorious















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Saying Goodbye

to Father David and Jacqui





















See more photos of this day's events in the digital version of Cross-Finder on our website: https://sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter

Saying Goodbye



to Father David and Jacqui















Saying Goodbye



to Father David and Jacqui

















Thank you from Father David

Dear St. Helena's Parish Family,

Grace to you and Peace. Jacqui and I extend our hearty thanks to you, to the members of the Vestry, and to the parish staff, for hosting a beautiful worship service and "Vaya con Dios" for us on our last Sunday at St. Helena's. We remain ever-grateful for your hugs, hearty handshakes, good-wishes, expressions of love and words of prayer in both worship and in our fellowship time at Tusculum. It was a beautiful and joyful day, and we are so grateful.

We invite you to attend the Consecration service on Saturday, July 8 at 11:00am in the All Saints' Chapel at nearby TMI-Episcopal, our diocesan school. We hope to see you there.

As St. Helena's moves forward through this time of transition, we continue to carry you in our hearts and lift you up in our daily prayers. We are excited to see what the Holy Spirit will do in the days and months ahead as you journey through the discernment process and call your next Rector.

Thank you for being our church home and our parish family.

Watch for deer!

David & Jacqui Read



And the next week, we celebrated the ordination of The Reverend Jamie P. George











Youth Sunday

We are so proud of our youth who make St. Helena's a vibrant and exciting place to worship!























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Senior Sunday

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,

Jeremiah 29" 11-14

It was an honor to recognize our 16 graduating senior during services on May 7th by presenting them with their Journey Boxes. The Journey Boxes are a time capsule of the steps on this part of their faith journeys with their St. Helena's family. Six of these graduating seniors are graduates of our very own St. Helena's Episcopal School, previously known as SHEEP.

These young people are head on a variety of paths. Some are heading off the colleges, some technical training and one into the military.

Dawn



Congratulations: Russell Roach, Laura Tidwell, Zane Sampson, Reese Tarwater, Noah Shelby, Grace Tidwell, Hailey Stoner, Eli Sandt, Natalie Holder, Maddie Calder, Ryan Erickson, Dominic Clow, Megan Boutte, Eli Harrison, not pictured- Joseph Walsh



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

Senior Sunday









Senior Sunday



SHEEP (graduates of St. Helena's Pre-School)

Can you guess who this is?











Coming This Summer for Kids Fun * Educational * Challenging



St. Helena's Church

- Vacation Bible School
 'Giddy Up and Go to God's Word'
 June 12-15 9:00 noon
 2-year olds rising 5th graders
- 2. Fine Arts Academy
 July 17th- 21 9:00- 2:00pm
 Rising 1st-rising 8th graders
- 3. Camp WACKY
 August 1st-3rd 9:00-2:00pm
 Rising 3rd rising 5th graders
 Free to the public.

Registration is required. Go to www.sthelenas.net

St. Helena's School Steam Program

Week 1: June 5-8

(Rising Kinder to rising 5th graders)

Week 2: July 10-13

(Rising Kinder to rising 5th graders)

9:00am - 2:00pm

Week 3: July 24-27

(Rising Kinder to rising 5th graders)

9:00am - 2:00pm

Register for Steam camp at sthelenasepiscopalschool.com



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St. Helena's Seniors Got Into Desert-scaping

St. Helena's seniors gathered on a Spring day to view the gorgeous wildflowers in the Comfort area and then visit the R*A Texas Nursery (http://ranursery.com) in Comfort which specializes is desert-scaping. The nursery carries plants that are fully adapted to our hill country environment as well as the supplies to create desertscape projects. After viewing the nursery, the group shared lunch at the High Restaurant in Comfort.

If you are interested in fellowshipping with this group, please contact Pat Krueger at seniors@sthelenas.net











Men's Fellowship

The Men of St. Helena's meet weekly Thursday mornings at 7:30 am for Bible Study in the church Annex West Building on Rock Street.

The Men's group also meets around 6-6:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month at a local restaurant/bar for fellowship and fun.

Call the church office or check church bulletins/Constant Contact for times and locations.

Newcomers are always welcome!



If you are interested in men's bible study, email Ron at ronjeri@gvtc.com.

If you are interested in men's monthly dinners, contact Larry at kroeger2@gvtc.com.

Our Youth Summer Mission Trip to Messiah Church, SD

Last year our church sponsored a youth mission trip to Wounded Knee, South Dakota to build a food pantry. This year, the Outreach Steering Committee of St. Helena's is once again sponsoring a youth trip to Wounded Knee, and they are inviting our congregation to make donations to assist the people of Wounded Knee and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In listening to Father Eagle Bull, and in consultation with Ms Dawn, we are collecting the following items which will be given to Messiah Church to be distributed through their food pantry:

- \Rightarrow Toothpaste
- \Rightarrow Toothbrushes
- ⇒ Floss
- \Rightarrow Deodorant
- ⇒ Band-aids
- ⇒ Feminine hygiene products
- ⇒ Tylenol, Motrin,
- ⇒ Bacitracin tubes
- ⇒ Hand Sanitizers
- ⇒ Razors
- ⇒ Small baby bottles
- ⇒ Small containers of baby formula

Note: the above items may be 'travel size' or full size.

The deadline for donations is Sunday June 18.

Please drop these items into the baskets at the end of the hallway to the Parish Hall, or in the rolling baskets at the entrances of the Historic Sanctuary and Wendler Hall.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity for this worthwhile outreach effort by our youth.





Ted Geer on behalf of the Outreach Steering Committee.

St. Helena's Outreach Ministry Identifies Area Opportunities

Emergency request for volunteers and supplies from the Plaza de Paz Respite Center and the Diocese of West Texas.

For the past year, Plaza de Paz has partnered with the Migrant Resource Center (MRC)/Centro de Bienvenida shelter in San Antonio, sending individuals or families who need overnight accommodations to their shelter from Plaza de Paz. After consulting with the Rt. Rev. David M. Reed, Plaza de Paz Respite Center will temporarily expand its current services to provide short-term, overnight housing for migrants, who have been processed and released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This response has created an urgent need for volunteers and supplies. If you are interested in donating for supplies or assisting as a volunteer, please go to: https://www.dwtx.org and search for Immigration & Refugee Ministries or call (210.824.5387).

Hill Country Daily Bread Back to School Clothing Drive

If you want to help with this need, please email Sarah Davis at shardiedavis@gmail.com. Clothing needs to be turned in to the church by **Sunday June 25 at the latest.**



WHY

Poverty has a long-term effect on children's lives. Your support helps ensure that every child in your community feels the love of Jesus Christ and their neighbor.

Your donation will join hundreds of others in our Hill Country community to help children begin the school year confident and dressed in the warmth of your generosity.

WHAT

You will be matched with a child between the ages of 4 to 18yrs and purchase three (3) **NEW** outfits and a **NEW** pair of shoes. A bag with each child's name, age, sex, and size(s) will be provided. HCDBM will add additional clothing.

DID YOU KNOW?

It may be hard to believe there is poverty in the Hill Country. However, the following percentages of students in each county below have qualified for free or reduced lunches, indicating that their parents earn at or below the poverty line:

30.2% Fabra Elementary

24.5% Curington Elementary

21.2% Kendall Elementary

15.2% Cibolo Creek Elementary 9.01% Van Raub Elementary

8.4% Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary

2022 Statistics: Texas Open Data Portal

Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries 38 Cascade Caverns | Boerne, TX 78006 830.755.5200

Items Needed

- 2 shorts/pants
- 2 tops
- 1 hoodie sweater
- 1 pkg socks
- 1 pkg underwear
- 1 pair athletic shoes

Church Office: 830-249-3228

The Rev. John D. Badders, Jr. Interim Rector

The Rev. Jamie P. George, Curate

Tommy Mathews, Senior Warden

Ann Shorter: Parish Administrator

Amy Ryland: Admin Asst. to the Rector

Dawn McLendon: Children/Youth Minister

Stefanie Nitschke: Minister Young Families

Pat Krueger: Senior Fellowship Director

Devvie Asel: Communications

Cayce Mann: Young Adult Minister

Anna Kessler: Assoc Head of Elementary

Dawn Allen: Assoc Head of Pre-School

Bryce Boddie: Worship Leader

Lynne Lowry: Choir Director

Dr. Susan Matteson: Organist

Linda Antu: Custodian

Bethany Covington: Nursery Director

Zack Tanner: Sexton

Sean McLendon: Sunday Sexton

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Find out more about our church and our ministries to God's people. Scan the QR code below, or check out our website: www.sthelenas.net and find us on FB.







