

# Cross-Finder

August 2023



Ordination and Consecration of the 11th Bishop of West Texas



VBS June 12-15



Fine Arts Academy July 17-21



Camp W.A.C.K.Y. Aug 1-3



Youth Mission Trip to Messiah Episcopal Church, South Dakota



Happening Aug 4-6

**St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School**

410 N Main St, Boerne, TX 78006

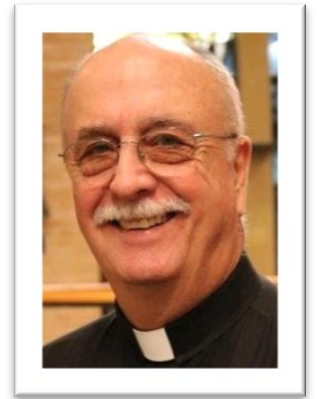
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# From The Rector

The month of August is well underway, and even though in years gone by we would still be enjoying the slow pace of a hot summer, our present reality is anything but slow. School will start soon, backpacks, new uniforms, new school supplies, new teachers, maybe even a new school, are all moving at us at warp speed. I believe Boerne Schools begin August 10th and St. Helena's School begins August 14th. For the church, Rally Day will be September 10th this year and is the kickoff to St. Helena's academic year. On Rally Day we will all gather at Camp Capers for a joyous church service, great food, and lots of fun. Our fall Sunday school classes for adults and children will then begin the next Sunday, September 17th.



With the start of school, and the beginning of the fall academic semester, we can also look forward to new people coming through the doors of St. Helena's. This is the time of year when many new folks start thinking about attending church for the first time and will walk into a church for the very first time or the first time in a long while. When they happen to walk in the doors of St. Helena's, what will their first impression be? Will they be greeted with a smile and offered warm hospitality? Remember, the first ten minutes of a new person's visit will form what that person will feel about the church and will often determine if they come back again. First impressions really do count!

As Christians we are all called to share the Good News of the Gospel. For many of us, one of the best ways we can do this is through radical hospitality to those who come through our doors for the first time. St. Helena's does an outstanding job of hospitality, so keep it up! God is moving in many peoples' hearts, nudging them to try a new church for the first time. Will we be ready? Yes! Christ is counting on all of us!

Growing Forward is our theme for this year. It reminds me that God's kingdom is always growing, even when we can't see it. Like that mustard seed or that bit of yeast, God is working behind the scenes bringing about his will for our world. We play an integral part in that growth. We are the outward and visible signs of God's good work in the world and I believe St. Helena's is one of the most visible signs of that good work in this part of God's kingdom.

So, keep it up. You will be calling a new leader to be your rector in a few months. Let's make sure that when that person shows up at your doors, they find God's kingdom growing forward and flourishing in this holy place.

God bless you all,  
John+

# August Calendar at a Glance

Services: Wednesdays at 10 am (HS) and Sundays at 7:45 am (HS), 9:00 am (WH) and 11:00 am (HS).

**AW:** Annex West on Rock St; **AE:** Annex East 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Aug 13</b> Sunday Services	<b>Aug 14</b> 1st day St. Helena's School	<b>Aug 15</b> Ukuladies at Cibalo Assisted Living 3 pm	<b>Aug 16</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS	<b>Aug 17</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am. AW	<b>Aug 18</b>	<b>Aug 19</b> Youth and Children's Summit at St. Helena's
<b>Aug 20</b> Sunday Services Free Birds 4-6 pm. Bevy Hotel, Boerne	<b>Aug 21</b>	<b>Aug 22</b> Learn about EfM: 6:30 pm. AW	<b>Aug 23</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS	<b>Aug 24</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am. AW	<b>Aug 25</b>	<b>Aug 26</b>
<b>Aug 27</b> Sunday Services Bring peanut butter and canned chicken for Blessings in a Backpack Learn about EfM: 10:15 am. AW YAMs at Ronald McDonald House	<b>Aug 28</b> <b>Art Haus</b> Paint & Play at noon AW. Bring sack lunch and a friend!	<b>Aug 29</b>	<b>Aug 30</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS	<b>Aug 31</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am. AW		



# September Calendar at a Glance

Services: Wednesdays at 10 am (HS) and Sundays at 7:45 am (HS), 9:00 am (WH) and 11:00 am (HS).

**AW:** Annex West on Rock St; **AE:** Annex East 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Sept 1	Sept 2 10 am. Labor Day Parade hot dogs on the church front lawn
Sept 3 Sunday Services	Sept 4	Sept 5	Sept 6 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS	Sept 7 Men’s Bible Study 7:30 am. AW	Sept 8	Sept 9
Sept 10 <b>Rally Day</b> <b>No Sunday services on campus.</b> <b>One service at 10 am at Camp Capers</b>	Sept 11	Sept 13	Sept 13 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS After school programs 4 pm. CMC Children’s choir 5:30 pm. PH High School Youth Group 6 pm. YH	Sept 14 Men’s Bible Study 7:30 am. AW Crochet/Prayer Shawl 11 am. Parish Hall Room 1	Sept 15	Sept 16
Sept 17 Sunday Services	Sept 18	Sept 19	Sept 20 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS	Sept 21 Men’s Bible Study 7:30 am. AW	Sept 22	Sept 23
Sept 24 Sunday Services Sunday School begins for all ages 10:10 am.	Sept 25	Sept 26	Sept 27 10 am Holy Eucharist, HS	Sept 28 Men’s Bible Study 7:30 am. AW Seniors Gathering, detail later	Sept 29 Women’s Retreat Sept 29 - Oct 1	Sept 30

# Growing Forward

*From Our Senior Warden*

Do you hear it? Can you feel it? It may be hard to as we move through these hot and dry dog days of summer, but we have been growing and growing forward these past few months. If you were on campus during the week this summer you no doubt heard the joyful voices of children at Vacation Bible School, Arts Academy, Camp Wacky, or attending our school summer activities. Or maybe you saw the two large tents providing shade for activities on the sport court.

***With each camp or activity, you could feel the Holy Spirit as seeds of faith were planted, others were cultivated and nourished, and many blossomed.***

Our roots have been deepening further as evidenced by the remodeling of the Parish Hall. Our Parish Hall has helped form our roots for nearly 100 hundred years as a place to gather in Sunday School, Christmas pageants, Bible studies, receptions, innumerable meals, meetings, art classes, and the list goes on, but the space was in need of attention. Over the past two months construction crews and master carpenters have plied their skills and poured their hearts into the project.

***The result of our remodeled Parish Hall will be a dynamic space that nourishes our roots, a space that will not only serve us as it has in the past but will open up new and exciting opportunities to gather in fellowship.***

This summer we also invested in new audio and visual equipment in Wendler Hall. The system we used was put together over time with many components, many of which had reached the end of their useful life. Bryce Boddie and Ben Houck stewarded the installation of the new and upgraded system to serve the 9:00 Contemporary worship service, Sunday School, large gatherings, receptions, and much more.

(Continued on the next page.)

## *From Our Senior Warden (continued)*

Each and every Sunday we see new faces as folks branch out, seeking a church home. Our Vestry has met with Diocesan Canon Caroline Mowen as part of the process to call a new rector and the Search Committee received training from Archdeacon Rev. Mike Besson as an essential step in their role leading the search. A subcommittee comprised of members of the Vestry and Search Committee, along with Devvie Asel used information from the Parish Meeting in order to complete the Parish Profile which has been adopted by the Vestry and sent to the Diocese. All of these mark significant milestones in the search process.

School has begun and soon these hot summer days will fade into the cool crisp mornings of fall. As we enter that season of change, we will continue to grow, sometimes in subtle ways and sometimes in outward and visible ways.

**I invite each of you to spend some time in prayer and ask yourself, where is God calling me to grow? Where is my spirit nurtured and nourished? Where can I nurture and nourish others? Then take those steps to deepen your roots and branch out for our greatest days lie ahead.**

*God Bless - Tommy Mathews, Sr. Warden,*



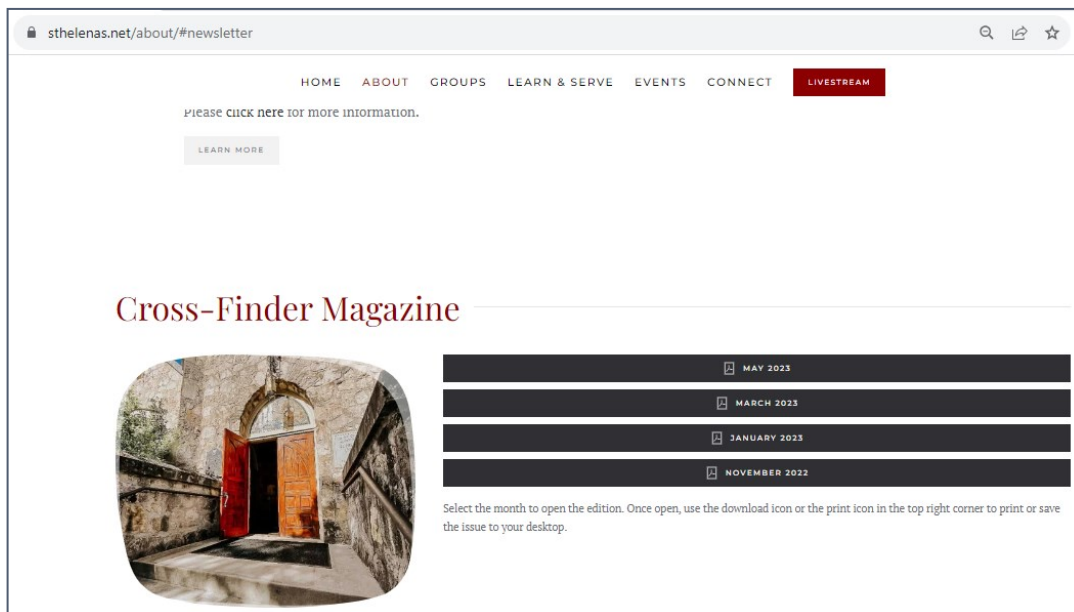
# Vestry Approval of Digital Delivery of Cross-Finder

Our vestry unanimously passed a motion to **deliver Cross-Finder magazines digitally via a link in Constant Contact.** This enables St. Helena's to save thousands of dollars in print and mailing expenses which can be used for programs and outreach. We are able to also include a lot more color photos in the digital version.

In the image below you can see past digital Cross-Finders stored on our website. You can access these at any time at [sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter](http://sthelenas.net/about/#newsletter) to share with family or friends.

**Those who still want a paper copy should email [Amy@sthelenas.net](mailto:Amy@sthelenas.net) or call the church office (830.249.3228) and give us your full name and US postal address. We will continue to mail paper versions of the magazine only to those who request them.**

We will also have an ample supply of current Cross-Finder magazines in the back of the Narthex and on the tables in the Great Room of Wendler Hall. Please share the news and if you know of a friend or family member who does not have/does not use a computer, please ask them to call the church office.





# 35 Ways to be Involved this Fall!

## **Fall colors, Cooler days, Returning the family to a routine, and church on Sundays!**

Being involved in the life of our church brings God's love closer to all of us, teaches our children the joys of knowing Jesus and forms us as adults. It's a way to make new friends and feel a part of something bigger than ourselves! Being involved weaves our lives together as we support each other through challenging times. Below is a list of the many opportunities to be involved at St. Helena's. Watch our weekly Constant Contact emails for times and locations. Call the church office for questions. **Sign up at Rally Day!**

### **Christian Formation**

- After school programs (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) start Sept 13, 4:00 pm. High School Youth Group dinner at 6 pm/ program at 6:30 pm.
- Sunday School for adults, youth and children starts Sunday, Sept 17, 10:10 am.
- Fall Dinner Series-Parish-wide Bible Study & Newcomers class for adults, starts Oct 4, 6:00 pm.
- Music opportunities
  - Sunday 9:00 am music team year round. Contact [bryce@sthelenas.net](mailto:bryce@sthelenas.net)
  - Adult Cancel Choir starts Sept 13, 7:00 pm, in choir room. Contact [choir@sthelenas.net](mailto:choir@sthelenas.net)
  - St. Helena's Singers (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) starts Sept 13, 5:30 pm, choir room. Contact [kidschoir@sthelenas.net](mailto:kidschoir@sthelenas.net)
- Young Adults Ministry (YAMs) - Aug 25 - pool/game night. Bible study starts Sept 17, Sundays 10:10 am.
- Young Families - ongoing monthly family gatherings, summer weekend retreat at MICC
- Education for Ministry (EfM) formation classes (see page 16 for more information)
- Men of St. Helena's Bible Study meets Thursdays, 7:30 am.
- Women of St. Helena's
  - Fall Retreat at Mustang Island Conference Center (MICC) - Sept 29 - Oct 1
  - Bible study meets Wednesdays 11 am. Starting Oct 4
  - Decades Dinner - Nov 9
  - Quiet-ish Day Retreats (TBD)

### **Making Sundays Great**

- Vestry
- Daughters of the King
- Altar Guild
- Lay Readers, Acolytes, Ushers
- Sunday School teachers

### **Church Social Events**

- Rally Day (see page 11)
- Dinners for 8 (see page 12)
- Men of St. Helena's Dinner/ Fellowship monthly at 6 pm.
- Free Birds/Empty Nesters
- Senior Fellowship (Art Haus, monthly gatherings, knit/crochet) - resumes in September


### **Fall Special events:**

- Sept 2 - Labor day parade hot dogs on the church front lawn
- Sept 10 - Rally Day at Camp Capers
- Nov 1 - Decades Dinner

### **Outreach**

- YAMs - Cook for Ronald McDonald House in San Antonio
- Diocese of South Dakota
- Angel Tree - Christmas
- Hill Country Daily Bread
- Kendall County Blood Bank
- Maty's Box - Canned and boxed food for anyone in need

# Labor Day Parade - September 2



**You are invited to the  
Labor Day Parade  
10:00 am.  
Come for hot dogs, tea  
and water**

**St. Helena's Front  
Lawn**

# Rally Day - September 10!

**IMPORTANT: There is just one service on Rally Day. It is at Camp Capers at 10:00 am. There are NO services on the Boerne Church Campus.**



Our Rally Day theme is "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

## Rally Day Sunday Sept 10 @ Camp Capers 10 am till 2 pm.

Join our church family Sunday, September 10 at Camp Capers, 17 minutes from Boerne in nearby Waring. Take the scenic, seventeen-minute drive to our diocesan camp on the banks of the Guadalupe River for a day of worship, food, fun, and fellowship.

Dress cool/casual; bring lawn chairs for the worship service on the shady sport court. We will eat lunch in the air-conditioned dining hall. **Be sure to bring a dessert to share!**

**The menu:** 'On the Border Fajita Buffet' with beef /chicken options, grilled onions /peppers, Spanish rice, charro beans, guacamole, pico, salsa, corn/flour tortillas. For the kids, cheese quesadillas.



Be part of the 3rd annual Cornhole Tournament

## Your checklist for what to bring to Fall Kick-Off:

- Lawn chairs
- Swimsuits
- Dessert to share
- Frisbee golf equipment
- Sunhats
- Sunscreen
- The whole family!





# *Growing Forward*

## *Sign Up for Dinners for 8*

**St. Helena's continues to grow with visitors and new members. With this in mind, St. Helena's vestry is spearheading 'Dinners for 8' this fall.**

This is a great way to meet and foster friendships with people attending St. Helena's!

The goal is to have groups of 8 meet to share a meal at a home or restaurant once a month for four months. Vestry members Sarah Davis, Steve Drukker, Cindy Glick and Jennifer Shelby will organize the groups based on sign up. One person in each group will be the lead who will contact their group to decide on place and time. Groups may do breakfast, dinner or lunch as they wish. The leader will be provided some discussion questions to get things going and encourage fruitful conversations. The vestry aim is to connect church members to people they may not know during this time of transition as we await our next rector.

**Sign up at Rally Day or email Steve Drukker at [sdrukker@tsaog.com](mailto:sdrukker@tsaog.com) and ask to be in a group of 8. Provide Steve with the following:**

- your name plus any others who may accompany you
- home address
- email and phone numbers

Note: The church will not be providing childcare for these dinner gatherings.





# Growing Forward

## *Sunday Fall Spiritual Formation for Adults*

As followers of Christ, we are called to form ourselves to the form of Christ, becoming more like Christ as we grow in the strength and knowledge of Christ. The disciples followed Christ as learners. They walked the way of Christ to become more like Christ. We, too, are called to walk the way of Christ through learning and formation. To become the fullest expression of what Christ intends, we must participate in the practice of formation. At St. Helena's we offer many avenues to engage Christ in as disciples. Please look over the classes below and ask Father John or myself if you have any questions.

*Mother Jamie*

### **Adult Sunday School begins Sunday, Sept 17th, 10:10 am.**

**Class 1: Great Room of Wendler Hall. God's Holy Word will be taught by Mother Jamie.** We will discuss God's revelation through Scripture. Topics include Forms of God's Revelation, the Canon of Scripture, the reliability of Scripture, Torah and God's People, Old Testament Wisdom, The Good News of God, New Testament Wisdom, Responsible Revelation, and more.

**Class 2: Parish Hall. Everything You Wanted to Know About the Episcopal Church (but were afraid to ask)** The Interim Rector, Fr. John Badders, will be teaching this class using *Welcome to the Episcopal Church* by Christopher L. Webber as the textbook. The author writes from the perspective of scholar, teacher, overseas worker and pastor of a variety of churches as he tells the story of the Episcopal Church: who we are, where we have come from, what we believe, and how we worship. The syllabus is shown below.

Sunday, Sept 17	St. Helena's – past, present, and future	Sunday, Oct 15	The Episcopal Church's Teaching and Spirituality
Sunday, Sept 24	The Episcopal Church's History	Sunday, Oct 22	The Organization and Ministry of the Episcopal Church
Sunday, Oct 1	Worship in the Episcopal Church	Sunday, Oct 29	The Mission of the Episcopal Church
Sunday, Oct 8	The Bible in the Episcopal Church		

# Growing Forward

*More Events for Spiritual Formation for Adults*

## **Parish-Wide Dinner and Bible Study, Wednesdays, October 4<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup>**

1. Evening prayer in the Historic Sanctuary from 5:30-6:00 pm.
2. Dinner from 6:00-6:30 pm, Wendler Hall
3. Bible Study from 6:30-8:00 pm, Wendler Hall.

Mother Jamie will lead discussion on *Freedom to Grow Forward in Faith: A Study of the Apostle Paul and the Letter to the Galatians*. The Apostle Paul specifically addressed the people of Galatia with themes of freedom, faith, and faithfulness to inspire a deeper commitment to following Christ. As we study the Apostle Paul's letter, we can discover our own freedom to dive more deeply into our faith and faithfulness to Christ.

**Note: this class is the same as the Women's Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 am.**

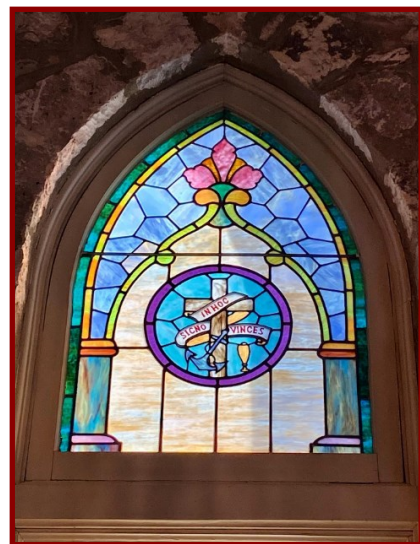
## **Women's Bible Study group, Wednesdays, 11:00 am. - noon starting October 4.**

This is the same class *Freedom to Grow Forward in Faith: A Study of the Apostle Paul and the Letter to the Galatians* as described above but just for women whereas the Wednesday night class is for both men and women. Location will be announced in Constant Contact or you can call the church office.

## **Men's Bible Study group, every Thursday, 7:30 am. in Annex West just off Rock Street**

This fall, the men will continue to study the book of Isaiah. All men are welcome to attend and jump right into thoughtful biblical discussion. Bring a friend and plan to go eat breakfast tacos afterward.

Please contact Ron Trebo [ronjeri@gvtc.com](mailto:ronjeri@gvtc.com) for more information.



# Growing Forward

## *Women's Spiritual Formation*



*Women of St. Helena's, we are looking ahead to great things for Fall. After a very hot summer, I know we are all ready for cooler weather. Who am I kidding, it will be several more weeks before we enjoy cooler weather! Until then, perhaps we are ready to renew with rhythms of spiritual practices that will bring us deeper into the joy of our Lord. My hope is that these offerings will draw us closer to Christ, closer to one another, and closer to the knowledge of ourselves.*

*Mother Jamie*

### **Women of St. Helena's Retreat September 29 - October 1**

First is the Women of St. Helena's Retreat at our fantastic diocesan retreat center, Mustang Island Conference Center (MICC). With the theme, *God Sees*, we will reflect on the many ways God's presence is evident with women in Scripture. Through biblical reflection, we will also reconnect to how God has been present with us in the past and rejoice in God's continual presence with us today. Like continuous waves lapping on the ocean's shore, God repeatedly shows us the fullness of God's glory and invites us to participate in the greatest joy of all, the joy of our Lord. May we accept God's invitations and commit to practicing being in God's presence. This retreat weekend promises to be one filled with fun fellowship, reflection, renewal, and rejuvenation as we connect more deeply to Christ, others, and our inner selves. Please join us! Here is the link to register: <https://forms.gle/xGVFzwKHJ9FgkGP7A>.

***Registrations and payments need to be received by Sunday, September 17th.***

### **Women's Bible Study resumes Wednesday, October 4th at 11:00 am.**

We will study *Freedom to Grow Forward in Faith: A Study of the Apostle Paul and the Letter to the Galatians*. The Apostle Paul specifically addressed the people of Galatia with themes of freedom, faith, and faithfulness to inspire a deeper commitment to following Christ. As we study Paul's letter, we can discover our own freedom to dive more deeply into our faith and faithfulness to Christ. This same study will be used for a parish-wide study for men and women on Wednesday evenings.

### **Decades Dinner, our highly anticipated event, will be Thursday, November 9th.**

Women representing each adult decade of life will speak poignant truths and invite us into the celebration of this journey of life we walk together. The dinner will joyfully raise funds for Transformation House. Mark your calendars and look for more information to come.

*Women of St. Helena's, you never cease to amaze me. Your generosity, kindness, grace, encouragement, and willingness to engage are supernatural evidence of the glory of our Lord at work through the Holy Spirit. I am so grateful, everyday, that I get to spend my days in your midst watching the ways you participate in God's goodness. I look forward, with great anticipation, to a fantastic fall with you all.*

# Growing Forward

## *Education for Ministry (EfM)*

The Education for Ministry (EfM) program comes from the Episcopal seminary at Sewanee. EfM invites participants into small, facilitated groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as our Christian faith is deepened. It studies Christian Scripture, history, and theology and teaches a method to apply our Christian tradition to the experiences of our lives. You will learn how to articulate your faith and how to shape your faith into action. While the course is a four-year program, you will only be asked to commit to the first year. Learn more at <http://efm.sewanee.edu>.

The course will meet Tuesdays at St. Helena's at 6:30 pm starting **September 5th**  
Cost: \$325/year plus the cost of books.

*A personal testimony:*

*I want to continue on this journey excited to see what God has planned for me. As I reflect back on last year, I see how I was stretched in my thinking and exposed to the broader Christian community. The more I learned, the more I realized how little I know. It's not an easy path, but "the Way" isn't promised to be. Let's all not only share this information with others but also pray that God will call people for this journey who need to be on it. I appreciate Lori continuing to facilitate our group.*

*Blessings,  
Mary Ann*

**Want to learn more about EfM?**

**Come to one of these two information sessions:**

- Tuesday, Aug 22 6:30 pm. Annex W
- Sunday, Aug 27 10:15 am. Annex W

To RSVP to any session, or for more information about EfM, please contact Lori at [houckfam4@gmail.com](mailto:houckfam4@gmail.com)



# ST. HELENA'S CHILDREN & YOUTH FALL FAITH AND FUN!

**Wednesday, September 13**

**Afterschool ministries begin for all ages:**

**4:00-5:30 pm**

Snacks and drinks provided!

**Kingdom Kids** (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders) and **Rock Solid** (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders) gather in the Children's Ministry Center on Rock Street for Bible study, food, games, outreach projects & crafts.

**Middle school youth** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) gather in the Youth House behind the Parish Hall for faith experiences and scripture study.

**5:30-6:30 pm**

**St. Helena's Singers** (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) gather in the choir room, 1st floor of the Historic Sanctuary to learn, practice, and praise God!

**6:00-8:00 pm**

**High school youth** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) gather in the Youth House.

6:00-6:30 Dinner

6:30-8:00 Faith journey experiences focused on relationships with Jesus and each other.

**Fall Dinner Series** Children's programs and nursery will be available from 6:30-8:00 pm.  
More information to come.

**Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:10 am  
September 17<sup>th</sup>!**

# Growing Forward

## Choir News



### Meet Our Interim Choir Director: Whit Matteson

Susan (St. Helena's Organist) and I live in Hunt. We moved to Hunt about 10 years ago, from Atlanta. Like so many others in this area, I grew up in Houston, and came to the Hill Country for family vacations and summer camp all through my childhood. We live across the street from my Mom, and various family members have had property right around here for nearly 100 years. We have three sons and two grandsons, all still in Atlanta.

We started at St. Helena's in November of 2015; Sue took a year off to play for the Methodist Church in Kerrville, and I left in spring of 2022 to work full time at Kerr♦Konnnect, a non-profit transportation provider in Kerrville. Kerr♦Konnnect provides low-cost rides using volunteer drivers, in a 10-mile radius around the Kerr County Courthouse. We deliver around 400 trips each month to people who can't drive themselves for one reason or another. We have about 65 volunteer drivers and about 10 volunteer office staff. I'm really excited about coming back to St. Helena's as the interim chancel choir director!

**The Chancel Choir starts rehearsals September 13 at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room, Parish Hall.**

### Meet Our New Children's Choir Director: Destiny Lucero

Destiny Lucero is our new choir director for St. Helena's Singers. She loves children and assisted Lynn with St. Helena's Singers last year. Destiny grew up in Fredericksburg Tx and served seven honorable years as a Naval aircrewman on the now-retired P-3 Orion. She is now enrolled in the University of Incarnate Word Music Therapy program. Destiny plans to graduate in two years and work with youth patients in hospitals, schools, and organizations that work with autism.

She says:

*I am so thankful to be a part of the St. Helena's family and I am so excited about what my new role as the youth choir director will bring. I am most excited to have another play like this past one, where the children worked so hard to come together and successfully put on a show for not only the joy of others but really for that inner happiness that singing and connecting brings.*



**St. Helena's Singers (2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade) starts rehearsals September 13 at 5:30 pm in the Choir Room, Parish Hall.**

# Growing Forward

## *Seniors*

### **Senior Fellowship Card Ministry**

Those joyful little cards packed full of prayers, love and encouragement have blessed so many people over the last two years. There is nothing sweeter than to open your mailbox and find a special thoughtful card rather than a bill!

You are invited to drop by our card display in the Parish Hall by Room One. Simply, choose a card and bless a family member or friend. (cards are free)



### **Senior Fellowship Opportunities**

- ◇ Art Haus Classes, Card Making, Art Show
- ◇ Ukuladies offering concerts in the Boerne area Independent,
- ◇ Assisted and Nursing Homes.
- ◇ Prayer Shawls and Hand Work
- ◇ Flower Ministry at Morningside Ministry at Menger Springs
- ◇ Friends Luncheons

For information on the Seniors Program at St. Helena's, contact Pat at [seniors@sthelenas.net](mailto:seniors@sthelenas.net)

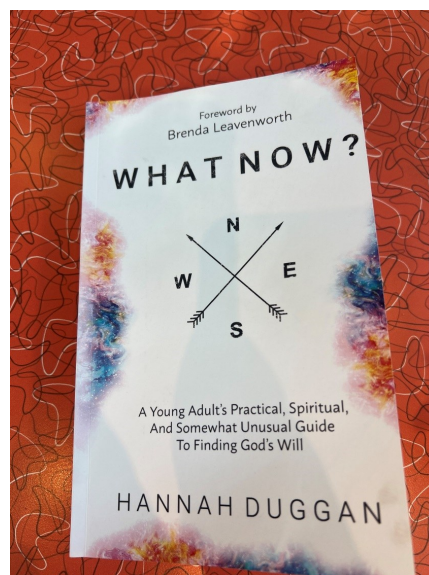
# Growing Forward

## *YAMs - Keep the Fun Happening!*

This summer the YAMs started a weekly devotional! Great conversations and company! We also hiked Enchanted Rock and had many swim parties. And, we plan to keep the fun going!

- This fall we will have a **Fall celebration August 25th!** It will be a pool/game night!
- We are also doing a service project together to **feed the Ronald McDonald House** in August!
- We will continue to have **Bible study's once a month.**
- We are starting **weekly devotional during the Sunday school hour at 10am** in the gathering house on Sundays. The book we will use is shown below.
- For fun outings this fall, we plan to play **mini golf, have a cookout, hike at Lost Maples**, go to an **escape room**, and so much more.

Please contact Cayce at [cayce@sthelenas.net](mailto:cayce@sthelenas.net) to find out more details!





# The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Ordination and Consecration of the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of West Texas



Choir led by Lynne Lowry



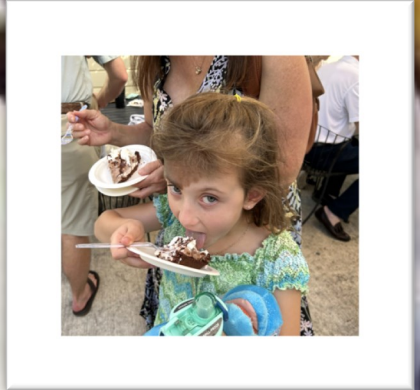
Bishop Read's cross of gold donated by St. Helena's and other churches in the Diocese of West TX





It was a GREAT Day for Pie!

Thanks to the YAMS for serving!



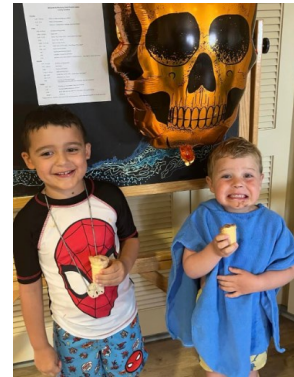


# It was a GREAT Retreat for Families

*Family Weekend at Mustang Island Conference Center*



# Pirates



# Fun



# The beach!





# It was a GREAT Summer for Youth

## *Youth Mission Trip*



On June 23 the bus left for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and Messiah Church.

Thanks to the leadership of Todd Calder, our junior warden and mission trip leader, and the artistry of Robert Jones. St. Helena's presented Messiah Church with a new altar in July. Their previous altar was a rebuilt kitchen counter top. While at Messiah Church this summer, Bishop Jonathan Folts came for a visit and worked alongside us restoring the church pews. The altar clothes were donated by St. Helena's Altar guild. Bishop Jonathan officially blessed the altar while we were there. Below is the first worship with the new altar and our mission team.

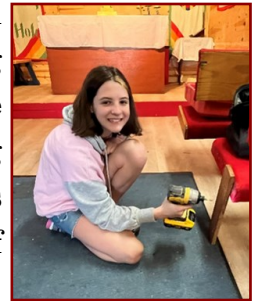


# It was a GREAT Summer for Youth

## *Youth Mission Trip Personal Reflections 1*

### **Mission trip from the perspective of a first timer**

The Lakota Sioux Tribe in South Dakota was definitely much different than what I expected. There was something that felt very surreal about being in the midst of such a unique culture, and in the middle of all these things going on that you just don't hear about on the news. People selling handcrafted jewelry, dream catchers, and other things for a living. Kids who probably haven't had a good, healthy meal in months, or years...if ever. And in the center of all of this, a church.



Messiah Church was a place where we created friendships, joked around, listened to stories, painted and patched up the ceiling and walls, reupholstered pews, and so much more. It was such a fun week, all while having this twinge of feeling a bit out of place. It's hard to see people struggling with poverty and having addictions. It's not what we're used to, in our "perfect" world.

One day, we were packing up to leave Messiah for the day, and a lot of us ended up grouping around Father Eagle Bull's wife, Charlette (shown in the picture to the right) She was telling stories about when she was a girl, and we all got a glimpse of what it is like to be a child in the Lakota Tribe.

It was such a different experience. I would have never guessed what it was like to be on this trip. The trip there and back, stopping at all the different churches, and being on the Reservation itself. You bet I'm tagging along next year too!

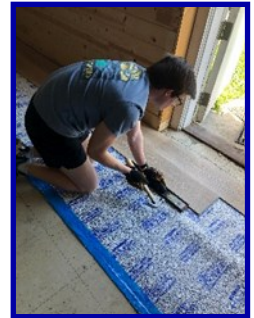


*Lilly*

# It was a GREAT Summer for Youth

## *Youth Mission Trip Personal Reflections 2*

As this was my first time on mission trip, I didn't really have any idea of what to expect. I really just went with the flow and even though Mrs. Dawn had a plan of what we would be doing while we were there, everyone there had to adapt as the days went on and as new needs were made aware of. For example, I was supposed to be doing flooring for at least half of the time we were there; however, we managed to finish pretty quickly (once we had all of the needed materials) which meant I had to find a project to jump into elsewhere. Sure enough, a new need arose. As it turns out the water on the reservation comes straight out of the ground with little to no filtering which means they get a lot of unwanted dirt and sediment in their water. This causes lots of issues with their plumbing. Because of this issue, I spent the remainder of my time disassembling toilets and a sink, cleaning out all of the dirt and sediment buildup as well as replacing all of the parts that had deteriorated over time. I got a sense of how something as seemingly small as using the restroom can become a challenge due to their location and infrastructure.



Once you get out on the reservation, you start to get a sense of just how difficult it is to just get supplies and materials because of the locations of the nearest stores, let alone funding it. Before arriving, Mrs. Dawn was informing us about the dire economic situation that most of the people on the reservation are in. She also informed us about the generosity and sense of community that they have on the reservation. This truly became apparent when on the last night we were there, Father Eagle Bull and Charlette made us all Indian tacos; however, it wasn't just for us. I noticed as we were leaving, there was a line of people from the reservation waiting outside for food as well. They weren't just giving back to us or letting us in on their culture, they were giving to the whole community. It was truly awe-inspiring to see these people who don't have a whole lot, but what they do have they share with those around them.



*Noah*



# It was a GREAT Summer for Youth

## *Youth Mission Trip Personal Reflections 3*

Even though I'd interacted with the Eagle Bulls briefly in the three previous years, I didn't feel like I knew the people who keep Messiah going, so I asked both Dawn and Fr Eagle Bull to have time to share stories. I was able to spend most of the week with the Eagle Bulls and it was even better than I'd imagined.

Char is fearless. She was generous with her stories, and many of them were filled with, "I didn't care!" because she will stand up for what she knows is right even when it is unpopular. She also has the ability to make her environment beautiful with her laughter and decorations. In her stories were many uncomfortable truths we need to hear to even begin to understand her strength.

Fr. Eagle Bull is a generally quiet man, so when he speaks, one should listen. It's another story when he is able to communicate in Lakota. One doesn't have to understand the language to hear how much he cares about the future generations. His gift of faith and natural ability to seamlessly connect traditional Lakota beliefs to Christianity proves all people are more alike than they are different.

The importance of community is evident in Lakota greetings and farewells. When our group departed, Fr. Eagle Bull taught us toksa (doh-k-shah) a shortened version of the phrase for "I'll see you or meet you again." Through a continued partnership, we will see how "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love" (Ephesians 4:16).

*Samantha*



# It was a GREAT Summer for Youth

*Happening Aug 4-6, 2023*

God blessed St. Helena's with the awesome privilege and responsibility of hosting Happening this August. Happening is a once-in-a-lifetime event where youth examine their faith in a fun, relaxed, informal, and loving atmosphere. The retreat is offered through the Diocese. The event was spectacular in every way.

**Beth Adam** led the volunteer effort by recruiting more than **70 people** to bring supplies and cook meals for the kids and volunteers. Everyone there certainly walked away knowing that St. Helena's is one of the most loving, welcoming churches they have ever encountered!



'His Love' group leading the offertory.





# Thank You

## *Happening Volunteers*

**From Beth Adam:**

*“I am deeming Happening a HUGE success. Thank you to my cooks. The adult leadership who serves on happenings throughout the diocese were astounded at the attention to home-made meals. Will you please pass this along to the many who helped you pull off your meals? Y'all are the best. Beth”*

Here's a list of the helpers:

About 65 individuals brought supplies cookies, water, etc. Meals were provided by

- Sharon Tidwell
- Men's Group -Thank you Larry Kroeger for spearheading the group
- Travel buddies from St. Helena's and St. John's (New Braunfels)
- Young Families Ministry
- Cursillo Group
- Empty Nesters - Thank you to Clint and Mary Ann Simmons for organizing the meal
- Seniors Fellowship

**Lots of work by Altar Guild for the services during the weekend!**

**From Larry Kroeger:**

*Thank you to our great team  
who fed the gang Saturday morning:*

1. *Bruce Bradley*
2. *Deene Gott*
3. *Hunter Shelby*
4. *Michael Glick*
5. *Ron Frishmuth*
6. *Steve Beach*
7. *Stuart Smith*



**From Clint and Mary Ann Simmons:**

*Thank you to all the volunteers who donated food items or helped serve at Happening this past Sunday. Beth Adam who was in charge of organizing the food for the entire Happening weekend did an amazing job!!! We all agree, St. Helena's knows how to feed the multitudes. There were approximately 80 attendees!*

# It was a GREAT Summer for Children

*Three camps provided Christ-based experiences for 338 children  
Vacation Bible School, Fine Arts Academy, Camp W.A.C.K.Y.*





# We Could Never Have Done it Without *Our Summer Volunteers*

Vacation Bible School - 171 children, 35 youth volunteers and 11 adult volunteers.

Fine Arts Academy - 121 children, 13 youth volunteers and 4 adult leaders.

Camp W.A.C.K.Y. - 46 children, 10 youth volunteers and 4 adult leaders



Vacation Bible School



Fine Arts Academy



Camp W.A.C.K.Y.



Camp W.A.C.K.Y.



# Thank You to our Summer Volunteers

*from Dawn McLendon*

We have so much to be thankful for in the life of St. Helena's! I would like to pause and shout out an enormous thank you to all who have been enthusiastically serving our church and others this summer.

Thank you to all the leaders and teens who served with such open hearts during our 2023 **Vacation Bible School**.

Thank you to the adult leaders, high school senior leaders, and youth group members who served at **Messiah Church this summer**. Thank you to **Bishop Jonathan Folts** for walking along side us in endeavors to love our sister church.

Thank you to the adults and teens who witnessed and taught during our "**Make Your Mark: Leave a Legacy for Christ**" **Fine Arts Academy**.

Thank you to the brave adult leaders and the youth that are amazing role models and have the best attitudes leading **Camp W.A.C.K.Y. (We Are Children Knowing Yahweh)**

Thank you to the entire church family who prayed for, donated snacks, cooked food, helped set up and clean up after **Happening**. Thank you especially to **Endie Boddie** for being such a healthy, passionate, loving servant for Christ.

What's next you might ask....oh, we have great plans for the fall. Rally Day, Bible Studies, Decades Dinner, Children & Youth groups, Sunday School, and so much more.

So thank you in advance for all the ways that you will bring your whole heart into serving your church and beyond!

*Dawn*



# St. Helena's Episcopal School



*Ready for Fall 2023*



## *The Mission of St. Helena's Episcopal School*

*"To shepherd God's children and their families in a community of grace and to share the truth and love of Jesus Christ through developmentally appropriate instruction."*

# Diocese of West Texas News

Each of these events is linked to the Diocesan website. Click the blue link for more information.

## **August 19, 2023** [Youth, Children, and Family Ministry Summit](#) - Youth Ministry Retreat

The Bishop's Youth Commission and Christian Formation Committee are hosting a 1-day Youth, Children, and Family Leader's Summit on Saturday, August 19 from 9am-3:30pm at St. Helena's in Boerne. Ewart G. Jones, Jr., Wiess College Coordinator at Rice University and former Director of youth and young adult minister for the Diocese of Texas, will be the guest speaker. The day will include breakout sessions, time for fellowship, and conversation with ministry leaders from around the Diocese. All youth, children, and family leaders-paid and unpaid, lay and ordained-are invited to attend. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

## **August 26, 2023** [World Missions Symposium: August 26](#)

Sign up today for the annual World Missions Symposium, *Mobilizing Your Church for World Missions*, Saturday, August 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the Mission Room at the Bishop Jones Center - 111 Torcido Drive, San Antonio. Hosted by the Rt. Rev. David M. Reed, Bishop of West Texas, the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Bishop Coadjutor of West Texas, and Dr. Marthe Curry, Director of World Missions, Symposium participants will delve deeper into the opportunities and unique challenges involved in international missions outreach. Several speakers will share the impact serving in World Missions has had on their own parishes and faith journeys. The agenda will also include Question & Answer segments and Small Group Brainstorming sessions.

## **Labor Day Weekend** [Mustang Island Family Camp - Labor Day Camp](#)

Spend a long, summer weekend with your family on the beach at Mustang Island Family Camp! Enjoy swimming, singing, surfing, arts & crafts, delicious meals, a buried treasure hunt, beach games, worship, building sand castles, fishing, resting under a beach umbrella, a campfire, and more. Programming begins Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch. Each day ends with worship, music, and a family-centered Bible teaching.

## **September 7, 12:00 noon CST (Zoom)** [September Missions Café: Mission in Colombia](#)

Register today for the next Missions Café webinar, *Mission in Colombia* with Mary Hayden Manning, Children, Youth and Family Ministries Director at St. David's Episcopal Church in San Antonio. During the free seminar, Manning will talk about her recent trip with the St. David's Youth Group to Barichara, Colombia.

The team worked with [La Maria Group](#), a ministry that "rescues smiles" by sharing the Good News and working with children, abused women, abandoned elderly people and the prison population.

## **September 8-10, 2023** [Camp Capers Mother/Daughter Retreat](#)

Mothers, Daughters and Grandmothers of all ages are invited to a weekend at Camp Capers that centers on growing and kindling that unique and special bond that mothers and daughters have while participating in fun and faith-centered activities such as swimming, high ropes, kayaking, gardening, arts and crafts, hiking, worship services, Bible lessons, and more.

## **September 16, 2023** [Invite, Welcome, Connect Ministry Summit featuring Mary Foster Parmer](#)

On Saturday, September 16 at Christ Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Mary Foster Parmer will lead a ministry summit in our diocese. Mary is the author and creator of Invite, Welcome, Connect. She brings decades of experience helping congregations assess the ways they connect to people in their community and inviting them into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ as they are incorporated into the congregation. She currently serves on the Task Force on Clergy Leadership Formation in Small Churches for The Episcopal Church, and served previously as director of the Gathering of Leaders.

# St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School Staff

**St. Helena's Church Office: 830.249.3228**

**The Rev. John Badders**, Interim Rector – [Rector1@sthelenas.net](mailto:Rector1@sthelenas.net)

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**Tommy Mathews**, Senior Warden – [Seniorwarden1@sthelenas.net](mailto:Seniorwarden1@sthelenas.net)

**Whit Matteson**, Interim Adult Choir Director – [Choir@sthelenas.net](mailto:Choir@sthelenas.net)

**Susan Matteson**, Organist – [Choir@sthelenas.net](mailto:Choir@sthelenas.net)

**Bryce Boddie**, Worship Leader – [Bryce@sthelenas.net](mailto:Bryce@sthelenas.net)

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**Stefanie Nitschke**, Minister for Young Families – [Stefanie@sthelenas.net](mailto:Stefanie@sthelenas.net)

**Cayce Mann**, Young Adult Minister – [Cayce@sthelenas.net](mailto:Cayce@sthelenas.net)

**Pat Krueger**, Seniors Minister – [Seniors@sthelenas.net](mailto:Seniors@sthelenas.net)

**Devvie Asel**, Communications – [Devvie@sthelenas.net](mailto:Devvie@sthelenas.net)

**Bethany Covington**, Nursery Director – [Childcare@sthelenas.net](mailto:Childcare@sthelenas.net)

**Zack Tanner**, Sexton

**Linda Antu**, Custodian

**Sean McLendon**, Sunday Sexton

**St. Helena's School Office: 830.249.8084**

**Anna Kessler**, Assoc Head of Elementary – [Anna@sthelenas.net](mailto:Anna@sthelenas.net)

**Dawn Allen**, Assoc Head of Pre-School – [Dawnallen@sthelenas.net](mailto:Dawnallen@sthelenas.net)