

Cross-Finder

St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

November 2023



Seek and Ye Shall Find

Luke 11: 9

*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*

From our Senior Warden

Greetings and Blessings!

The season of fall is upon us with Friday night lights, homecoming parades, cooler crisper temperatures, long prayed for rains and the holidays right around the corner. As we enter this season, St. Helena's continues to 'Grow Forward', deepening our roots through our Christian formation programs, spreading our branches with exciting outreach efforts, a vibrant stewardship program, a growing school enrollment, and active ministries.

You might wonder, "How can we grow forward without a new Rector"? The answer is simple. Each of us seeks to live the life to which God has called us. God would not want us to sit idly by while we wait for the next rector. Instead we are actively living into our phrase 'Growing Forward'.

We started fall with the Labor Day Parade where the men of St. Helena's cooked hot dogs for everyone on the front lawn while the school led games for children of all ages! Rally Day followed and then we kicked off our Christian education programs for all ages. Mother Jamie had a very successful Women's Retreat and now, on Nov 9, we will celebrate the Decades Dinner. When I think of our congregation, I am reminded of the parable that Jesus told of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Before the master leaves on a journey, he entrusts three of his servants with talents, each according to their ability. Two of the servants faithfully take the talents which they had been entrusted with, and successfully multiply them, greatly pleasing the master he returns. Like the two servants, we are entrusted to multiply what the Lord has given us and to have our actions honor him. As we continue to live into this call, we are not only growing St. Helena's, **we are changing lives and the world around us, as living examples of a strong Christian faith community!**

As we Grow Forward, we give thanks for our talented and dedicated staff, for the ministry of Mother Jamie George, our amazing Curate, and for Father John Badders, who has faithfully served us as our Interim Rector these last six months. We also give thanks for the leadership of our Vestry and for the faithful work of our Search Committee. The Search Committee is deep into the interview process talking with incredibly talented and faithful candidates, one of which will soon be called to be our next Rector. Please keep the Committee and the candidates in your daily prayers. We have much to be thankful for and I know our best days are ahead of us as the faithful family of St. Helena's continues to live into our call, growing and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ! God Bless!

Tommy Mathews

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November Calendar at a Glance

Regular services: Wednesdays at 10am and Sundays at 7:45am (HS), 9:00am (WH) and 11:00am (HS). Sunday School at 10:10am.

Wednesday afterschool program: 1st-5th 4-5:30 pm (CMC) and middle school (YH). 6 pm High School (YH)

<p>AW - Annex West on Rock St CMC - Children's Ministry Center on Rock St; GR - Great Room 2nd floor WH; GH - Gathering Haus behind office; HS - History Sanctuary Building on Rock Street; PH - Parish Hall is in the basement of HS; WH - Great Room in Wendler Hall on Johns Road; YH - Youth House on Rock Street; Note: Calendar is subject to changes.</p>						
			<p>Nov 1 10 am Holy Eucharist After school programs 5:30 St. Helena's Singers (PH, Room 5) 7 pm Adult Choir (PH, Room 5)</p>	<p>Nov 2 7:30am Men's Bible Study (AW)</p>	<p>Nov 3</p>	<p>Nov 4</p>
<p>Nov 5 Daylight savings ends Sunday Services Last day adult Sunday School</p>	<p>Nov 6 1 pm Art Haus (AW) topic: Silent Night, Holy Night</p>	<p>Nov 7 1pm Ukuladies (AW)</p>	<p>Nov 8 10 am Holy Eucharist Same programs as Nov 1</p>	<p>Nov 9 7:30am Men's Bible Study (AW) 6-8 pm Decades Dinner (WH)</p>	<p>Nov 10</p>	<p>Nov 11 Veterans Day Potluck Friendsgiving at Meffords</p>
<p>Nov 12 Sunday Services Children/Youth Sunday School</p>	<p>Nov 13 1 pm Art Haus (AW)</p>	<p>Nov 14 1pm Ukuladies (AW)</p>	<p>Nov 15 10 am Holy Eucharist Same programs as Nov 1</p>	<p>Nov 16 7:30am Men's Bible Study (AW)</p>	<p>Nov 17</p>	<p>Nov 18</p>
<p>Nov 19 Sunday Services Children and Youth Sunday School Young Adults 12:30 pm (for info, contact Cacye@sthelenas.net) Empty Nesters 4-6 pm Rill (former Little Grettel)</p>	<p>Nov 20</p>	<p>Nov 21 1pm Ukuladies (AW)</p>	<p>Nov 22 10 am Holy Eucharist No afterschool programs Church Office Closed at noon. 7 pm Adult Choir (PH Room 5)</p>	<p>Nov 23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed</p>	<p>Nov 24 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>Nov 25</p>
<p>Nov 26 Sunday Services Children and Youth Sunday School</p>	<p>Nov 27</p>	<p>Nov 28 10 am Ukuladies Christmas Program at St. Helena's School (WH)</p>	<p>Nov 29 10 am Holy Eucharist Same programs as Nov 1</p>	<p>Nov 30 Men's Bible Study (AW) 11:30 am Senior Christmas Lunch at Peggy's on the Green</p>		

December Calendar at a Glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AW - Annex West on Rock St CMC - Children's Ministry Center on Rock St; GR - Great Room 2nd floor WH; GH - Gathering Haus behind office; HS - History Sanctuary Building on Rock Street; PH - Parish Hall is in the basement of HS; WH - Great Room in Wendler Hall on Johns Road; YH - Youth House on Rock Street; Note: Calendar is subject to changes.						
					Dec 1	Dec 2 Weihnacht's parade
Dec 3 Sunday Services 7:45 am (HS), 9:00 am (WH), 11:00 am (HS) Sunday School 10:15 am (PH) St. Nicholas Celebration 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	Dec 4 Noon: Art Haus Christmas Party & Creative Christmas Card Painting (AW)	Dec 5 11 am Ukuladies Christmas program at Heritage Place 6:00 and 7:30 pm Walk in Bethlehem	Dec 6 10 am Wednesday Holy Eucharist 6:00 and 7:30 pm Walk in Bethlehem	Dec 7 7:30am Men's Bible Study (AW)	Dec 8 Pajama Party for Young Families Groenhuyzen home	Dec 9
Dec 10 Lessons & Carols Sunday School 10:15 am Christmas Pageant rehearsal	Dec 11	Dec 12 1pm Ukuladies (AW)	Dec 13 10 am Wednesday Holy Eucharist Kingdom Kids & Rock Solid Christmas Party	Dec 14	Dec 15 Middle School Christmas Party	Dec 16 High School Christmas Party
Dec 17 Sunday Services Greening of the Church and Christmas Pageant 9 & 11 6:00 pm Ukuladies Christmas at Boerne High School Auditorium.	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20 10 am Wednesday Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Choir Practice	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23
Dec 24 10 am Holy Eucharist (WH) 4 pm Christmas Eve Service (WH), Children's sermon 7 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service (HS) 9 pm Candlelight Traditional Christmas Service (HS)	Dec 25 No services Church office closed	Dec 26 Church office closed	Dec 27 No 10 am Worship Service	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30
Dec 31 10 AM Holy Eucharist (HS)						

Advent Harkens by Mother Jamie

In just a few weeks, the long, sleepy season of Ordinary time will be behind us and the season of Advent will harken us into new invitations. The dawning of Advent shakes the church awake and shines a light of fresh possibilities like the sun shines into a new day. Sometimes, new invitations and fresh possibilities come with a sense of loss as we long for the sure and certain times of the past. As we wander into uncharted territories of possibilities, we often feel mixed threads of anticipation or reluctance. The unknown of what lies ahead can be scary and fraught with doubts. The unknown of what lies ahead can also be exciting and filled with hope as we watch how the Almighty God invites us to participate in the unfolding of long awaited good news.

As the Church moves into the season of Advent, so too do we at St. Helena's move into a season of Advent. A multitude of fresh possibilities lie ahead as we await a new Rector. We anticipate the dawning of a new day that will come with a faithful new leader. While we hold anticipation in one hand, we also lament the loss of sure and certain times of the past. The Psalmists join us as we cry out, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved." Indeed, as we await our new Rector, the Almighty God enthroned upon the cherubim hears our cries and shines forth with the saving power of grace and hope. Even as we wring our hands and wonder what is ahead, the Almighty God invites us to watch, with great anticipation, the unfolding of long awaited good news.

Great things are on the horizon. A new Rector is coming. A new day will shine forth. We will participate in the great plans of our Almighty God as new life unfolds before us. In this exciting season, we hold onto our hope and anticipation tighter than we hold onto our reluctance. The Almighty God guides us as a shepherd guides the sheep. The Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, cares for us and shows us the way ahead on this journey of Advent. With the Great Shepherd leading us, there is no need for fear or doubt. The Great Shepherd leads us onto right paths. A new day is ahead and it will shine with the abundant life of Jesus Christ, our Messiah.

This Advent Season, may we look forward with great anticipation and hope as we place our trust in the Great Shepherd, the Son. May we hold the hope of the long awaited good news higher than the lamentations of our losses. May we hold the coming of the Kingdom of God in the highest posture possible as we await the coming of Christ. Oh. Emmanuel, come and be with us. Indeed, God is with us.

We Are the Welcoming 'Hands of God'

During Advent and Christmas, we will have a lot of visitors seeking to find friendship and a place of worship. It is important that we all intentionally extend the 'hand of God' to our visitors.

Here are some simple things you can do:

1. **Wear a nametag.** This simple act of giving the gift of your name makes a difference to visitors, fellow parish family members, and new staff members.
2. **Intentionally look around on Sunday and greet/pass the peace to at least one person you do not know.**
3. **Introduce a visitor to someone else at St. Helena's.** Consider connecting them with someone similar in age, line of work, ages of their children or same neighborhood.
4. **Help a newcomer get connected.** Visitor's bags are on the outside table at 9 am and in the narthex of the Historic Chapel at 11 am. Hand them a bag and invite them to an activity you enjoy like art haus, youth gatherings, empty nesters or senior luncheons, etc.
5. **Invite new people.** New people are moving into our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and social circles at an amazing rate. Gracefully invite someone to come to worship, a Church meal, for coffee, youth group, etc. Invite people to fun events such as St. Nicholas Day, Bethlehem or young family's gathering.
6. **If a regular member is not coming to services,** e-mail/call/text them and just say, "I miss seeing you at St. Helena's."
7. **Welcome back someone who has been away for awhile.**

Pastoral Care Program.

If you or someone you know cannot attend worship and would like to receive communion, email Mother Jamie at Jamie@sthelenas.net.

If you have other pastoral care needs, please call the church office or email Jamie@sthelenas.net.

Fun Happenings this Fall

DEDICATION OF THE PARISH HALL



So many thanks to Ben Adam & company for the parish hall renovation design; Todd Calder who tirelessly managed the entire project; Christina Hendershot who was our on-site hero; Brandi Hines our interior decorator who created the area to be stunning, functional, warm and cozy; Robert Jones, the master carpenter responsible for the doors, windows and cabinets; and Beth Adam who assisted Brandi in creating a beautiful space perfectly suited to our needs.



More Fun Happenings this Fall

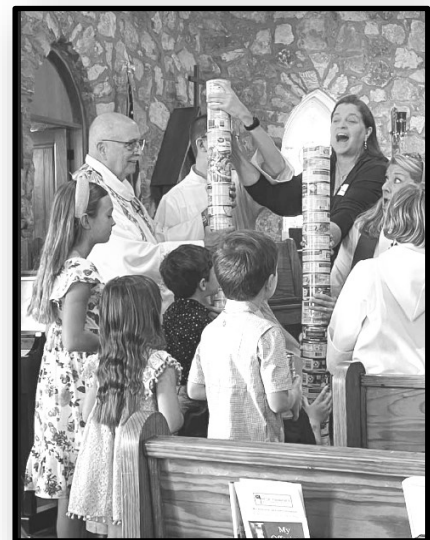
LABOR DAY PARADE - HOT DOGS ON THE FRONT LAWN



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



GATHERING FOOD FOR BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK



The Challenge: Bring enough cans of chicken to build a tower taller than Father John!

Learning Yard Makeover

Our Learning Yard, the play space located by our elementary school building at 122 Rock Street has been impacted by the drought and lots of running feet over the past years. It reached the stage where we had no grass left. And on the few rainy days, it became a huge mud mess. The St. Helena's Episcopal School Board approved the installation of an artificial turf covering for 2/3 of the yard. (Leaving the other third of the space for gardens, exploring and good ole digging in the dirt.) Thank you especially to Pam Boutte for taking lead on this project and to Manuel and his crew from *All Weather Grass & Sport Surfaces* for all of their hard work. For years to come this area will be used by children in our school, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Fine Arts Academy, Camp WACKY and all of our future ministries to children. We feel blessed!



Women's Retreat Mustang Island



I've been leading retreats for more than twenty years and I can honestly say the St. Helena's women's retreat of 2023 was one of the most grace-filled and deeply connected retreats I have been a part of. The privilege of watching the Holy Spirit move in and among people over the course of a weekend never gets old.

Forty-six faithful women accepted an invitation to encounter the living God in the beautiful beach surroundings of Mustang Island Conference Center. Our diocesan retreat center at Mustang Island is truly top notch and provides a uniquely tranquil space to encounter Creation, Christ, and Kathy's renowned cooking. The women of St. Helena's were spoiled rotten by the staff as we found space to explore the ways in which God Sees each one of us. We studied Scripture, we engaged in creative exploration and devotions, we played, we splashed in the ocean, we worshiped, we laughed, and, best of all, we connected with each other more deeply over the course of the weekend.

We are a uniquely gifted bunch, Women of St. Helena's. It is a joy to be in God's presence together watching all the ways we are deeply blessed as a community. What a blessing we have in community with one another.

St. Helena's School Hosts Teacher Training

On October 21, St Helena's was honored to partner with Hill Country Montessori School and Community as well as Crestmont Christian Preparatory School to host a large teacher training event on our campus. Training was led by a renown educational consultant, Dan St. Romain. Great things are happening at St. Helena's school!



Seeking God Through the Practice of Prayer

Advent is a special time when Christians, are called to joyfully spread God's love and the power of prayer to others.

If you are a woman desiring a safe place in a busy world where you can join with other women of St. Helena's to support each other in Christ's love, then please consider joining the Daughters of the King. We make a promise at our confirmation to pray, work, and give to expand Christ's Kingdom.



Richmond Barthe', 1940

Through membership in our Order, you have the opportunity to be:

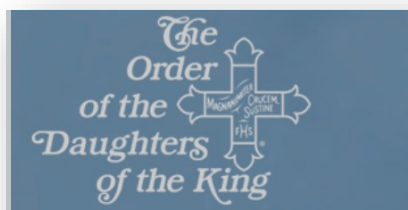
- Strengthened through prayer;
- Assisted with learning through study; and,
- Provided with a community of other Daughters.

If you are interested in joining the Daughters of the King (DOK) please call the church office at 830.249.3228 and ask for the DAR President's phone number. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday at 5:00 PM of each month.

Below is a bit more information about the St. Helena's Order.

The St. Helena's Order currently has 16 Daughters in the Chapter. The Daughters perform routine tasks such as compiling the church's prayer list and spending time each day praying for all on the prayer list. We also mail "prayer reminder" cards to the entire congregation through the course of the year. In the past, we have had fun preparing a church lunch during Holy Week for all attending the daily services. We also do other tasks that are performed in a quiet, discreet manner.

We are women living a Rule of Prayer and Service to our neighbors. We are women, using God as our guide, who try to draw into the church those with whom we have come in contact. We are women who work to spread Christ's Kingdom here on Earth. We can never forget that prayer is the foundation from which our service grows.



A Walk in Bethlehem



Where Do We Begin?

Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.

Mark 16: 15

15 years ago St. Helena's answered Jesus call in a new way to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. We gathered together as a church family and created a new avenue for preaching the Gospel. We began with our Savior's first moments on this earth and created a lens to view Christ's love. **We lived our mission of welcoming all of God's children to grow with us in Grace and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

What that looks like is an interactive walk through experience in our little town of Bethlehem. Built with the hands of our beloved church family members, the town of Bethlehem is recreated on our campus each second week of December. **This year on December 5th & 6th our church family will again come together to provide more than a thousand people the Christmas gift of experiencing the wonder of the story of Christ's birth.**

Our church has a big heart for this ministry and we invite you to join us. You can play a role in so many different ways.

- We need hands to help reconstruct our scenery on December 2nd from 8:00 am- 12:00.
- The props, publicity, and costume committees need help.
- And of course, we need many family members to play the roles of the guards, citizens, families and more in our cast.

Please reach out to Dawn McLendon at dawn@sthelenas.net to volunteer or for more information.

Christmas



Please join us for a



St. Nicholas CELEBRATION

DEC 3RD



10AM-11AM

Join us during the Sunday school hour to celebrate St. Nicholas. We will have crafts, games, traditional St. Nicholas Day treats, and a very special guest visitor!

Seniors Christmas Fellowship



Christmas



Christmas for Children and Youth

December 2nd

Church & School children in the Weihnacht's parade

December 3rd

St Nicholas Celebration @ 10:15 in the parish hall

December 5th & 6th

A Walk in Bethlehem

December 10th

Christmas pageant rehearsal @ 10:15

December 13th

Kingdom Kids & Rock Solid Christmas Party

December 15th

Middle School Youth Christmas Party

December 16th

High School Youth Christmas Party

December 17th

Children's Christmas pageant @ 9:00 & 11:00

Christmas Eve

Children's sermon at 4:00 service

St. Helena's Christmas Services

St. Helena's will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord with four services Christmas Eve. Below is the schedule of services.

Christmas is a great time of year to invite someone you know to come and worship with you.

Christmas Eve

10:00 am Contemporary Holy Eucharist service in the Great Room of Wendler Hall

4:00 pm This Christmas service, held in the Great Room of Wendler Hall, includes Christmas music led by our 9:00am worship team, Children's Sermon, Adult Sermon, and Holy Communion.

7:00 pm This Christmas service will be held in the Historic Sanctuary. It is a traditional service which includes Christmas music led by pipe organ, a harpist, and our traditional Chancel Choir. The service includes a sermon, Holy Communion, and candlelight.

9:00 pm This is the most traditional service of the evening and will be held in the Historic Sanctuary. It will include Christmas music led by pipe organ and chancel choir. It will include candlelight, sermon and Holy Communion.



New Year's Eve

10:00 am Holy Eucharist service in the Historic Sanctuary.

Connect with Us!

Staff E-mail Addresses

Church Office: 830-249-3228

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The Rev. Jamie P. George, Curate	jamie@sthelenas.net
Pam Boutte: Parish Administrator	pam@sthelenas.net
Whit Matteson: Interim Chancel Choir Director	choir@sthelenas.net
Dr. Susan Matteson: Organist	choir@sthelenas.net
Bryce Boddie: Worship Leader	bryce@sthelenas.net
Destiny Lucero: Children's Choir Director	kidschoir@sthelenas.net
Amy Ryland: Administrative Asst	amy@sthelenas.net
Pat Krueger: Seniors Ministry	seniors@sthelenas.net
Dawn McLendon: Children/Youth Minister	dawn@sthelenas.net
Stefanie Nitschke: Minister for Young Families	stefanie@sthelenas.net
Devvie Asel: Communications	devvie@sthelenas.net
Cayce Mann: Young Adults Ministry (YAMs)	cayce@sthelenas.net
Bethany Covington: Nursery Director	childcare@sthelenas.net
Dawn Allen: Assoc Head of Preschool	sheep@sthelenas.net
Anna Kessler: Assoc Head of Elementary	Anna@sthelenas.net
Zack Tanner: Sexton	
Sean McLendon: Sunday Sexton	
Linda Antu: Custodian	