



Cross-Finder

The magazine of St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School
January/February {Winter} 2025

4 Knit Together *through*
Contemplative
Formation

5 Children & Youth
Ministry: *Upcoming*
Events

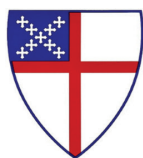
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St. Helena's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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On the cover: St. Helena's School children sing for the Ukuladies group in December 2024.

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Barb Howe

Chris Jacobs

Erica Johnson

John Krause

Tommy Mathews

Denise Powers

Amy Purcell

Perri Rosheger

Steven Tye

Letter from the Rector

The Rev. Jay George, Rector of St. Helena's

The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (Lk 5:30, NRSV)

Not that any of us are sinners... Well, of course we are. But that's not the point. Not the point I want to make, at least. Certainly Jesus chose to fellowship with the lowly and outcast to make the point that all of us are welcome at God's table, that each of us is invited to the heavenly banquet. What intrigues me about this verse is that Jesus chose to eat with them, and with us.

There's just something about sharing a meal, isn't there? And even more so when the meal is in someone's home. It's more than the food, more than the drink. We know this. Though I wonder how often in our microwave, doordash, just-get-it-to-go culture we stop to appreciate the simple miracle of eating together.

In the short time I have been at St. Helena's, Jamie and I have been the recipients of numerous dinner invitations. We have been blessed by the hospitality and graciousness of this congregation. It is a joy for us to enter into your homes and see the kids' pictures on the fridge or to hear the story of where that photo on the sidetable was taken. We meet Christ there in your presence as you share your lives with us. These connections are like the parables Jesus shares, lived out in the everyday.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like... watching your teenager come home and toss their backpack on the floor, barely holding back an eyeroll as they are forced to say hello to the priests...

... smelling the steak on the coals and hearing how your grandfather taught you to grill...

... hearing the story of how you discovered your favorite wine on a trip to Fredericksburg...

... seeing you throw something behind the couch because your husband was supposed to put it away when he got home, but he forgot because he was feeding the kids, and you had a meeting run long, so you just got home two seconds ago...

... knowing there is a seat saved for you at the table.

This warmth, this welcome, this grace, is what we're all looking for. We all want a seat at the dinner table. We all want to hear a kind voice say, "come sit by me."

We know how to do this, St. Helena's. You have shown me that we know how to do this. We have received the gift of invitation in our baptism. We have received the gift of being fed in communion. This gift of Jesus Christ, which we have

received and keep receiving, is ours to share. By him, and with him, and in him we are called to bring others to the table.

"Now let's take the extra step, St. Helena's..."

Connection:
Theme for 2025

We are friendly people. We are a welcoming community. After

all, unless you were born here, somebody was friendly and welcoming to you. Now let's take the extra step. Don't just smile at a newcomer, introduce yourself. Don't just scoot over in the pew, look up from the bulletin and wave someone over. Create room for connection, real connection in the midst of everyday life, and place it before God as your offering. Then see what the Holy Spirit does next.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you:

Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. (Romans 12:1, The Message)

Letter from the Assistant Rector

The Rev. Jamie P. George, Assistant Rector

The smell of fried tortilla chips and spicy salsa swirled in the air as the waiter placed our drinks and crunchy appetizer onto the table. My dear friend and sister in Christ, after a move to a different state a few years ago, was back in San Antonio for a few days and she was craving Mexican food and fellowship. As we chomped on chips, she began lamenting the loss of her church family in San Antonio and explained the tremendous difficulties in finding a new church.

I asked, “What was it about your San Antonio church family that you can’t seem to find in your new town? What is it that you miss the most?” My friend began to weep and said she missed studying God’s word in community.

She said, “I miss studying Scripture, like really, really studying Scripture. I miss studying Scripture in a way that creates more questions than answers. When I started going to your Bible study, I thought I was looking for answers. I wanted to know all the right things to do to be a good Christian. I quickly learned that Bible study is less about finding all of the clear cut answers and more about finding God.

“You and all of the other women helped me to discover that God speaks through Scripture in such a way that it can guide you into a different way of being. God changed me through Bible study because I began to hear God’s voice through God’s word and through the other

women with whom I was studying Scripture. I miss that so much.”

My friend is mourning the loss of community built through God’s word. This is what beneficial and meaningful formation looks like. It looks like coming together to contemplate the nature of humanity as a whole, our own nature as individuals, the nature of God, and the voice of God speaking through Scripture for application in our everyday lives. This kind of contemplation of Scripture changes us. It changes the way we see the world. It changes the way we interact with the world. This is the beautiful work of formation for discipleship.

together through contemplative formation.

St. Helena’s, this is who we have the opportunity to be. We can be a beautiful tapestry of discipleship knit together through contemplative formation, knowing God more deeply and hearing God’s voice in our everyday lives. May we be this kind of family. May we be a family of disciples contemplating Scripture together as the body of Christ, and may we invite our friends into the mission of God through studying God’s word together.

We can be a beautiful tapestry of discipleship knit together through contemplative formation, knowing God more deeply and hearing God’s voice in our everyday lives.

We are disciples of Christ together and called to walk this discipleship journey together. We study Scripture together, not so that we know all of the correct answers, but to know God. We study Scripture together to be knit together. My dear friend was tightly woven into the family of faith through the study of God’s word with fellow disciples. In her new town, she can’t seem to find fellow disciples with a mission to be knit

Children & Youth Ministry

Children

Holy Communion Class

Sunday 10:15

Jan. 12th, 26th & Feb. 2nd & 9th

Christian Formation

Sunday 10:15

Feb. 16th, 23rd, March 2nd, 9th

Valentine's Parents' Night Out

Feb. 14th 6:30-9:30

Free childcare

Pancake Supper

March 4th

LOOKING AHEAD

Vacation Bible School

June 9th- 12th

Fine Arts Academy

July 7th-11th

Camp WACKY

July 22nd-24th

Youth

Christian Formation Class

Sunday 10:15

Every Sunday in February

Confirmation Class

Sunday 10:15

Feb. 16th, 23rd, March 2nd, 9th

Confirmation Retreat

April 12th 9:00-12:00

Family Faith Formation

March 1st 6:30-9:30

Pancake Supper

March 4th

Youth Sabbath Retreat

March 21st-23rd

Maundy Thursday Vigil

April 17th 4-6 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mission Trip

June 19th- 28th

Fine Arts Academy

July 7th-11th

For more information on these events, please contact Dawn McLendon at dawn@sthelenas.net.

Seniors Ministry: Meaningful Holiday

Submitted by Pat Krueger, Seniors Minister

It was a joy to see the seniors of St. Helena's come together to share their gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy this past Advent season.

We helped and celebrated at the Friend's Thanksgiving Luncheon, while the school children surprised us with a joyous music program.

Our senior readers read entertaining books during story time for the Pre-K children, and elsewhere, colorful yarn was transformed into knitted/crocheted shawls, hats, and scarves. The Art Haus friends made hand-painted snow globe Christmas cards. Joyful songs from the Ukuladies were played for the St. Helena's School Children, Heritage Place, and in the Boerne Band Christmas Concert. Wow, what a joyful time of the year!

And now...the cold air, bare branches, blankets, and shawls are calling us to a quiet retreat. To pause and reflect and give thanks for the Christmas light that fills our hearts to overflowing for the New Year. Take time to rest, put your feet up, and enjoy winter. And when we are ready, we will once again gather together, knowing that Christ is with us.

Happy New Year!



Letter from the *Head of School*

Heather Dumais, Head of St. Helena's Episcopal School

St. Helena's School has an exciting semester ahead of us. We will begin the semester by installing new playground equipment. This is a great way to enhance physical activity and creative play for our students. We can incorporate the new playground into our curriculum by using it as an outdoor classroom, where students can engage in team-building activities, science experiments, and even art projects inspired by nature and physical movement. The new equipment will also offer opportunities for social interaction, problem-solving, and building motor skills.

In addition to the playground installation, we'll continue our focus on academic progress. Students will participate in enriching field trips, such as one to the Science Mill, where they can engage in hands-on

learning and explore STEM concepts in a fun, interactive environment.

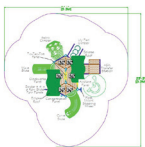
We are also excited to announce that registration for the next school year will begin in February.

In addition to our current offerings, we are thrilled to introduce a new two-day-a-week class for two-year-old students, as well as a three-day-a-week class for three-year-old students. This provides even more options for families looking to join our school community.

This semester, we have some wonderful events planned to bring our school community together. We will celebrate Move-Up Day, where students will experience a preview of the grade level they'll be entering next year. We'll also celebrate Chinese New Year with special activities and lessons to learn

about this rich cultural tradition. And, of course, we look forward to our popular Breakfast with Dad event, where students can enjoy a special morning with their fathers and other father figures.

This semester promises to be full of growth, exploration, and learning for everyone at St. Helena's School!



A rendering of the new playground equipment coming to St. Helena's School.

REGISTRATION

for the **2025-2026** school year begins in **FEBRUARY!**

Stay tuned to www.sthelenas.net and announcements for specific dates.

Additional programs beginning this fall:

- 2-year-old class (2 days per week)
- 3-year-old class (3 days per week)

Calendar View: February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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AW: Annex West on Rock Street **CMC:** Children's Ministry Center on Rock Street **GR:** Great Room (second floor of Wendler Hall) **GH:** Gathering Haus behind office **HS:** Historic Sanctuary on Rock Street **PH:** Parish Hall (basement of HS) **WH:** Wendler Hall on Johns Street **YH:** Youth House on Rock Street. Please note: calendar subject to change.

<p>26 Blessings in a Backpack Collection DOK Service of Preparation</p> <p>Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Holy Communion Class 12:30 - 1:30 pm Outreach Steering Committee meeting</p>	<p>27 1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p> <p>4:30 - 6:00 pm School Board Admin Comm Mtg</p>	<p>28 1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00 pm EFM</p>	<p>29 10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist CMC</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>6:00 - 7:00 pm Connector Workshop</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>30 7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>31 12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>1 9:00 - 11:00 am New Vestry Orientation</p> <p>11:00 am - 4:00 pm Vestry Retreat</p>
<p>2 Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Holy Communion Class</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation (Book of James Study)</p>	<p>3 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Robert Inserni Funeral</p> <p>12:00 - 2:00 pm Inserni Reception</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>4 1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00 pm EFM</p>	<p>5 10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist CMC</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>6:00 - 7:00 pm Connector Workshop</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>6 7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>7 12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Holy Communion Class</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation (Book of James Study)</p>	<p>10 1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p> <p>6:00 - 8:00 pm School Board Meeting</p>	<p>11 9:00 - 10:00 am School Breakfast with Dad</p> <p>1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:00 - 7:00 pm DOK Monthly Meeting</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00 pm EFM</p>	<p>12 10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist CMC</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>13 7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 - 11:30 am Crochet and Knitting Class</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>14 12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 pm Parents Night Out</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Holy Communion Class</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation (Book of James Study)</p>	<p>17 President's Day School Holiday</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>18 1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00 pm EFM</p>	<p>19 10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist CMC</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>20 121st Diocesan Council</p> <p>7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>21 121st Diocesan Council</p> <p>12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>22 121st Diocesan Council</p>
<p>23 Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Holy Communion Class</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation (Book of James Study)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00 pm EFM</p>	<p>26 10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist CMC</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>27 7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 - 11:30 am Crochet and Knitting Class</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>28 12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>1 5:00 - 9:30 pm Youth Event</p>

Calendar View: **March**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<p>2</p> <p>Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>9:30 - 11:00 am Youth Confirmation Class 10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Newcomers Class</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>4:30 - 6:30 pm Pancake Supper</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Daylight Savings Begins First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>9:30 - 11:00 am Youth Confirmation Class 10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Newcomers Class</p>	<p>10</p> <p>School Spring Break</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>11</p> <p>School Spring Break</p> <p>1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:00 - 7:00 pm DOK Monthly Meeting 5:30 - 7:00pm EFM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lenten Series School Spring Break</p> <p>10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>School Spring Break</p> <p>7:30 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 - 11:30am Crochet and Knitting Class</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>School Spring Break</p> <p>12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>9:30 - 11:00 am Youth Confirmation Class 10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Newcomers Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00pm EFM</p> <p>6:00 - 8:00 pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lenten Series</p> <p>10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30m - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 - 10:00 pm Hope in Action Fundraiser Transformation House</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>9:30 - 11:00 am Youth Confirmation Class 10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Newcomers Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00 - 3:00 pm Ukuladies Practice</p> <p>5:30 - 7:00pm EFM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lenten Series</p> <p>10:00 - 11:00 am Mid-Week Eucharist</p> <p>4:00 pm: Kingdom Kids (K-2nd) CMC 4:00 pm: Rock Solid (3rd-5th) CMC 4:15 pm: MS in YH 6:00 pm: HS in YH</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30m - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 pm 9am Service Worship Practice</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Youth Retreat</p> <p>12:30 - 2:30 pm Mahjong group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ordination of Bishop-Suffragan Elect</p> <p>Youth Retreat</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Sunday Services: 7:45 a.m. in the HS 9:00 a.m. in WH 11:00 a.m. in HS</p> <p>9:30 - 11:00 am Youth Confirmation Class 10:15 - 10:45 am Youth Formation</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 am Newcomers Class</p>	<p>31</p> <p>1:00 - 2:30 pm Senior Ministry Art Haus</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

Stay tuned for more information on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and the Lenten Series beginning March 12.



A Special Thank You

To all who helped make our
17th Walk in Bethlehem
another successful year!

From the cast, to the crew, to the
committees, to the visitors, to the gifts to
make it all happen!
Thank you.



Current **Announcements**

Blessings in a Backpack Donations

The Outreach Steering Committee thanks you for the donations already received! We are collecting 16-ounce jars of peanut butter and small cans of chicken for the Boerne Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack (BIB). BIB benefits all underprivileged children in Boerne ISD, who do not have adequate food at home to eat on weekends. Please bring all donations by **Sunday, January 26** for delivery to BIB. For more information, contact Ted Geer at ktkpr@netscape.net.

Seniors Ministry Art Haus

The Seniors Ministry Art Haus group will gather on Monday, January 27, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in Annex West to paint winter birds, with guest artist Vicki Holder. Contact Pat for more information at seniors@sthelenas.net.

Church Life - Connector Workshops

St. Helena's will host two workshops to discuss the upcoming Connector construction project on Wednesdays, January 29 and February 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall (if interested, you need only attend one). We will discuss details of the design, the timeline for construction, and the ways everyone can contribute to support the project. For more information, contact the church office at 830-249-3228.

New Vestry Members

At St. Helena's Annual Parish Meeting, held on Sunday, January 19, the following parishioners were elected to serve on the Vestry for a three-year term:

Ben Adam, Jeff Barton, Barb Howe, Denise Powers

Diocesan Council Delegates

Elected to serve as St. Helena's Delegates at the upcoming Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas (February 20-22) are:

Todd Calder, Lori Houck, Tommy Mathews, Margarita Mejia, Bob Myer, Stuart Smith, and Sharon Tidwell, along with Alternates, Dana Mathews, Hector Mejia, Kim Myer, and Jennifer Smith

Staff **News**

As the newest member of St. Helena's staff, Andrew is excited to give back to both St. Helena's and the greater Diocese of West Texas community. Andrew has been a parishioner at St. Helena's since childhood. With encouragement and guidance from Bishop Folts, Andrew attended TMI Episcopal, where he fostered a love of theology and the arts. He was actively involved in St. Helena's youth programs throughout high school and college, serving as a middle school intern for two years and the summer college intern for two summers. Andrew graduated with a BA in Theatre Management and Design from Southwestern University in 2021. Afterward, he spent three years as the Assistant Technical Director at The Capitol Theatre in Yakima, Washington. He is excited to return to his church family and collaborate with Dawn McLendon to bring new energy to St. Helena's Youth Ministry.



*Andrew Snyder,
Assistant Youth Minister*

*Our Mission:
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*



www.sthelenas.net



St. Helena's Episcopal Church
www.facebook.com/sthelenas.net



@sthelenasboerne