



# The Call



*May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight oh Lord our strength and our redeemer.*

## A Monthly Newsletter

Issue - August 2018

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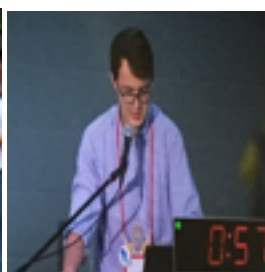
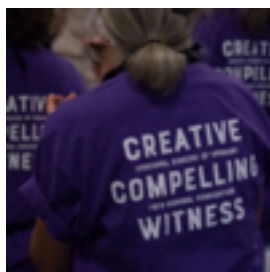
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## The Episcopal Church Reclaims its Mission: Live as people of Jesus

For ten days in early July The Episcopal Church met in Austin, Texas for its 79<sup>th</sup> triennial convention. All active bishops, four clergy persons and four lay leaders of every diocese spent ten days in legislative sessions, worship services, community witnessing, theological and programmatic conversations and an honest to goodness not in our wheel house **revival**.

In those ten days it became clear that The Episcopal Church with its dioceses in the United States, Taiwan, Micronesia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, as well as the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and the Navajoland Area Mission is not about church business as usual. Instead of operating in a siege mentality, how do we fill the pews, how do we attract young families, how do we guarantee older wealthier members remember the church in their wills, the convention asked, how do we bear witness to the power and love of God in the world? How do we spread the good news of Jesus Christ to people who are overwhelmed by struggles in daily living? How do we remind people in our church and outside our church that we are one in eyes of an awesome God?

Signs of vibrancy, focus, and forward movement I observed in my time in Austin included joint sessions of bishops and deputies on the topics Evangelism and Reconciliation. The session on Care of Creation occurred after I returned home. An organized public presence of Bishops Against Gun Violence brought hundreds to hear from the parents of a slain Parkland student. The family are members of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Coral Springs, Florida. The demonstration was a visible sign that followers of Jesus Christ believe in the sanctity of human life and our engagement is both gospel based and required to deal with a multilayered

epidemic in our country. Other signs included the large presence of young adults eager to lead, eager to commit, eager to help shape the church for current and future generations. The respectful conversation about future Prayer Book Revision also signaled a shift in how we will approach divisive issues within our own polity.

Perhaps the most significant indicator that The Episcopal Church is more determined to promote the Way of Christ than maintain the status quo of the post WWII church came in various sermons and addresses of our Presiding Bishop. In the final paragraph of his revival sermon, Michael Curry made the impassioned charge:

“My brothers, my sisters, my siblings, we have work to do. We must stand for Christianity, a way of being Christian that looks like Jesus of Nazareth. A way of being Christian that is grounded and based on love. A way of being Christian that is not ashamed to be called people of love. So go from this place and be people of the way. Go from this place as people of Jesus. Go from this place as people of love! Go from this place and heal our lands! Go from this place and heal our world! Go from this place until justice rolls down! Go from this place until the nightmare is over! Go from this place until God’s dream is realized! Go from this place and help us live!”

I left Austin and General Convention heartened. I left with a sense that I am part of church committed to serving and espousing a mighty God who is active and effective in a hurting world and has answers for a humanity hoping for better than we see around us. I am encouraged, and I pray as we continue our life together in this church, you will be as well.

Peace and Blessings,

*Sarah +*



## **It's the last month to Try Something New Give it a shot before the end of the Summer**

During the Summer months  
the Worship Committee invites you to  
“try-on” a new ministry

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be an  
**Usher, Lector, Acolyte, Chalist, Verger, Children's Chaplain or serve on the Altar Guild?**

Each week during the summer ages 10 and up can try-on a new role.  
(15 and up for chalists).

If you have ever thought about serving in one of these capacities but were hesitant to try, this is the perfect opportunity. You can try one role or many. You can serve one Sunday or several Sundays.

**It's never too late to try something new!**  
**Pick a card for your worship role in the courtyard!**

## Meet our new Organist and Choir Master

Alex Ancona



Dear Friends!

I am so excited to have the opportunity to serve and be with you at St. Mark's! Although the past year has taken me on a path I did not expect, I'm most grateful it has lead me back to Charlotte, a place that has grown to be a second home to me during my time as a student in the architecture program at UNC Charlotte. It was also during this time when I came to realize that along with buildings I have another passion: that is the pipe organ and music. And now I am glad to say in both my career in architecture and in being here at St. Mark's with all of you I am lucky to be able to engage in both! Thank you all for making me feel at home here! I am looking forward to our fellowship through music and worship together.

Sincerely,  
Alex Ancona

## An Invitation to join the Choir

# Greetings!

The choir of St. Mark's invites you to join us in song  
and spirit!

We would love for you to consider becoming a part of our group!

The choir currently meets Sunday mornings to rehearse at 10:00, before the 11:00 service.

We will be starting our regular schedule of the first Sunday of every month being full choir, and the remaining Sunday's will be those who are able to attend. We invite anyone who has an interest in serving through music, both as instrumentalist and vocalists, novice and expert! Looking forward to singing with you soon! Please feel free to contact Alex Ancona with any questions or thoughts! Thank you!

Organist Contact Info:

Alex Ancona

Email: [awancona@gmail.com](mailto:awancona@gmail.com) Cell: 860-748-1949





“Go Speak – Summer Edition”  
Will continue through the month of August

In our diocese, Go Speak cards are used by small groups of 6-10 people gathered in homes and other informal, relaxed settings. Often, the group has a meal or refreshments. People take turns selecting a card that “speaks to them” and then tell their story. The others in the group listen without questioning or feedback. Thus, the listening becomes as integral to the process as the storytelling itself. These gatherings have proven to be comfortable and provide a safe environment to give voice to stories of how God moves in our lives.

“Go Speak – Summer Edition” will meet in the Gallery during coffee hour (9:30 ish) No preparation or long term commitment required.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact David Fahey at [david.fahey@carolina.rr.com](mailto:david.fahey@carolina.rr.com)



Rally Day  
is right around the corner!  
Save the date for September 9th

Come for one service at 9:30  
and stay to hear about our  
Christian Formation programs  
planned for the year,

followed by a parish wide picnic.

THEN:  
New Building Reveal  
September 16th  
at the 9:30 hour



# FORMATION INFO.

A few weeks ago, the Charlotte Area high schoolers loaded up and headed to Detroit, not really knowing exactly what we would encounter. We knew there would be components of racism, art, music, and of course ice cream, but outside of that we did not know how these things would encounter us or what we would walk away with. After spending several days in the city, Joy and Hope were words that came to mind. I often thought of Ghandi and Mother Teresa during my time there. While these two individuals did amazing work, I am not sure they thought they were doing much more than being the people God created them to be. Ghandi did not just wake up and decide to take on the British Government. Mother Teresa did not simply wake up and say im going to start an orphanage half way around the world. Both started small. They saw a need and used their joy to bring joy to another.

This is exactly what many in Detroit are doing. Many artists (junk artists, musical artists, modern artists) are using the things that bring them joy and offering them to their communities with the hope others will find joy and pride. Think about it. The things that we are good at and that bring us joy are usually the gifts God has given us. It is in the sharing of these gifts that make the saints, saints, that make us saints. We saw so many giving back to their communities with their gifts. We can easily do the same where ever we may find ourselves. Whether its community gardening, creating art out of junk, or learning the history of the places we live finding joy in the midst of what we do its key to learning who God is calling us to be. Detroit knows this! It is my prayer that we come to know this!



## Summer Mission Opportunities

Episcopal Outreach Camp - St. Martin's Charlotte July 29-Aug. 1



## Erica Jordan-Thomas & her new beginning.

At the beginning of June, St. Mark's office received notification from Erica Jordan-Thomas (aka JT) that the 2017-2018 school year would be her last as principal at Ranson IB Middle School.

JT has been accepted to Harvard's doctorate program in Educational Leadership full time for the fall of 2018. Her last day with Ranson IB was June 30th.

The staff at St. Mark's was able to meet with JT one last time before she moved on. While a new principal has not been named at this time, we will be fortunate enough to continue working with Jon Rochester, (social worker) and Angela Weddington (assistant principal) in the interim. Both Jon and Angela will help the new principal become acclimated to the relationships already established with Ranson IB's community partners and plan to stay involved ongoing.

While we were deeply saddened to see JT leave Ranson IB, we are excited about her new adventure and wish her well. We will be sure to provide additional information on the new leadership at Ranson IB as the school year gets underway.



## R.I.S.E (Raiders in Support of Equity)

Mark your Calendars

The next RISE meeting will take place on

**Thursday August 2nd at 5:30pm**

Ranson Middle School

Dinner will be provided by Outreach  
Come and find out where we go next.





It's that time again!  
 Let's help the scholars at  
 Ranson IB Middle School  
 Get ready for the 2018-2019 school year.

Donations are especially important this year as RMS welcomes 300 more students to their community.

#### School supplies

- Bookbags
- Pencils (most needed item)
- Notebooks/composition books
- pencil sharpeners
- ear buds (for technology, earbuds are required)
- binders
- notebook paper
- erasers
- folders
- flash drives
- glue sticks
- colored markers
- poster board
- copy paper
- hand sanitizer
- colored pencils
- liquid glue
- 3 subject notebooks
- chapstick
- colored construction paper

#### Other Items

- Feminine products (no tampons)
- female underwear
- uniform shirts/polo style short sleeve: (hunter green, gray, white, carolina blue, black, navy blue, yellow)
- Hoodies (same colors as uniform shirts)
- Kleenex
- Khaki pants (male & female, preferably skinny pants or joggers)
- Tennis shoes (older & slightly used-preferably Nike, Vans or Converse)

Donations are being accepted now through August 19th. Please bring your items to the Ranson Bins located in the back of the parish hall.

Please contact Liz Gail if you have any questions or need additional information

704-597-8252

or lgail16@outlook.com

## Weekend Food Back Pack Shopping List

We won't start delivering weekend food back packs until September but we want to be ready.

Please consider adding a few items to your grocery list each week to help us stock the pantry in preparation for the school year. Suggested items are listed below. Of course monetary donations are also welcome.

Canned meals with pop tops(mac and cheese, franks and beans small size, spaghetti etc)

Individual fruit cups and applesauce

Cookies (individual packages)

Milk cartons (lunch box size)

100% Juice cartons

Granola Bars

Individual tuna packets

Fruit snacks

Individual cereal boxes

Please contact Marsha Phillips with any questions [mbp1936@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mbp1936@carolina.rr.com)



### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

If you are able to help out on the first day of school at Ranson IB Middle School please contact Jon Rochester at

[jon1.rochester@cms.K12.nc.us](mailto:jon1.rochester@cms.K12.nc.us)

Help with uniforms, direct kids to classes, Give out school supplies when needed and other general tasks to help out the teachers and staff





### **Birthdays**

Lacy Hamilton - 8/3  
 Jackie Mooney - 8/3  
 John Lavery - 8/7  
 Dawn Middleton - 8/9  
 Evelyn Fischer - 8/10  
 Christian Jones - 8/10  
 Forrest Wooten - 8/11  
 Brooke Michael - 8/12  
 Sarah Milholland - 8/13  
 Martha Ann Springer - 8/13  
 Nicholas Huber - 8/14  
 Daniela Hawkins – 8/16  
 Beth Hunt – 8/16  
 Suzanne Egan – 8/17  
 Kelly Pope - 8/17  
 Greg Siegel - 8/17  
 Rick Stein – 8/17  
 Maggie Haas – 8/22  
 Kate Lloyd - 8/23  
 Malinda Bivens – 8/24  
 Melanie Blythe - 8/26  
 Barbara Osburn - 8/27  
 Joe Brown - 8/28  
 Eloise Linker – 8/30  
 Tom Hurst – 8/31

### **Anniversaries**

Kenneth & Larissa Huber - 8/6  
 Michael & Suzanne Ferguson - 8/7  
 Willard & Barbara Osburn - 8/8  
 Andrew & Libby James - 8/10  
 Billy & Saunders Black - 8/16  
 Lynn & Debbie Plummer – 8/19  
 Forrest & Marilyn Wooten - 8/19  
 Joe & Fiona Brown - 8/23  
 Bob & Suzanne Egan – 8/25  
 Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 8/25  
 Robbie & Delia Roberts – 8/26  
 Jacob & Mandy Self-Sparrow – 8/29

### **Prayers for continued healing:**

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Richard & Mary Beth Masline |                     |
| Saunders & Billy Black      | Martha Ann Springer |
| The Mason Family            | George Ann Beam     |
| Bob Egan                    | Marty Fulton        |
| Vivian Edgerton             | Sydney Tatom        |
| Mike Wilson                 |                     |

### **New Members:**

**Willie & Lianne Scholz**

### **Panera Bread Pick-Up**

**Scott & Penny Brett – 8/3**  
**Willard & Barbara Osburn – 8/10**  
**Don & Debbie Siegel – 8/17**  
**Scott Hundertmark – 8/24**  
**Tonia Shelton – 8/31**



## The Power of a Prayer Shawl

Several years ago I gave one of the beautiful St. Mark's prayer shawls to a friend who was battling a serious illness. Unbeknownst to me her family kept that shawl after she passed away and recently gave it to another friend who needed the comfort that a prayer shawl provides. It's

not just the beauty and softness provided by the fabric but, more importantly, the love and prayers of the knitter and the person delivering the shawl that brings comfort to someone going through a difficult time.

The second recipient of the shawl I had initially delivered was told that the shawl was given by me AND my church. That person actually knew me and took the time to let me know she had received "MY" shawl. To me this was one of those "God moments". I had long forgotten about the delivery of the prayer shawl and had no idea it was continuing to

bring love and comfort to someone who needed it. This story was a reminder to me that we never know the impact that an act of kindness can have on another person. Spread the LIGHT! *Mary Schroeder*

*If you are interested in knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl please contact Annemarie Lafreniere  
[alafreniere@carolina.rr.com](mailto:alafreniere@carolina.rr.com)*

W.I.N.E.



### Women in Need of Entertainment

August 20th 6:30pm  
at the home of

Marsha Phillips  
601 Oakbluff Circle  
Charlotte  
704-910-0066

**This month we will be collecting school supplies for Ranson Middle School. Please bring an item for donation if you can.**

**Bring a a bottle of WINE or a dish to share.  
If you don't have time for either, just bring yourself.**

**Sign up Below**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044faaa828ab9-august>

Please contact Allison Rhinehardt [allibrett@gmail.com](mailto:allibrett@gmail.com)  
or Dawn Middleton [dawnmiddleton@bellsouth.net](mailto:dawnmiddleton@bellsouth.net)  
with any questions



Join the men of the church for  
**"Thirstday",**  
(A testosterone friendly answer to WINE.)

We plan to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month  
beginning on

**August 9th at 6:30pm**

We will gather at  
**Hickory Tavern**  
**9010 Harris Corners Parkway**  
**Charlotte**  
(Corner of Harris Blvd and US21)

We will have a brief biblical reflection, food,  
beverages and some prayer.  
Look for us in the outdoor seating area.

For additional information please contact  
David Fahey 704-562-7587.  
No RSVP required but texts are welcome.

## 2018 Stewardship Update

|   | 2018 Budgeted                              | June<br>YTD Actual |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Current Pledge Total  | \$344,175                                  | \$183,705          |
| All other anticipated income  |  |                    |
| <b>Non-Pledge Offerings</b>   | \$20,000                                   | \$9,875            |
| <b>Other Income (use of space by outside groups)</b>                | \$17,000                                   | \$ 8,505           |
| <b>Sales Tax Refunds</b>  | \$2,000                                    | \$ 557             |
| <b>Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income</b>                    | <u>\$32,750</u>                            | <u>\$ 16,375</u>   |
| <b>Total Budgeted Operating Income</b>                              | <b>\$415,925</b>                           | <b>\$219,018</b>   |
| 2016 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry                           |  |                    |
| <b>Staff</b>  | \$263,804                                  | \$130,343          |
| <b>Diocesan Support</b>   | \$43,454                                   | \$21,727           |
| <b>Campus Maintenance &amp; Utilities</b>                           | \$53,012                                   | \$ 25,879          |
| <b>Office Administration &amp; Other</b>                            | \$26,515                                   | \$ 13,053          |
| <b>Youth &amp; Christian Formation</b>                              | \$12,380                                   | \$ 2,585           |
| <b>Outreach &amp; Escuelita Support</b>                             | \$12,300                                   | \$ 5,630           |
| <b>Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship &amp; Parish Retreat</b> | \$ 7,100                                   | \$ 2,201           |
| <b>Worship &amp; Music</b>  | \$ 3,500                                   | \$ 863             |
| <b>%7 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average</b>           | <u>\$24,092</u>                            |                    |
| <b>Total 2017 Budgeted Expenses</b>                                 | <b>\$446,157</b>                           | <b>\$202,280</b>   |
| Current Excess/ <b>Deficit</b> of receipts over disbursements       | <b>\$30,232</b>                            | <b>\$16,737</b>    |
| 2018 pledge notes   | 100 pledge cards of 143 have been received |                    |
|   | Average Pledge \$3,477                     |                    |

**\*Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 69%**



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