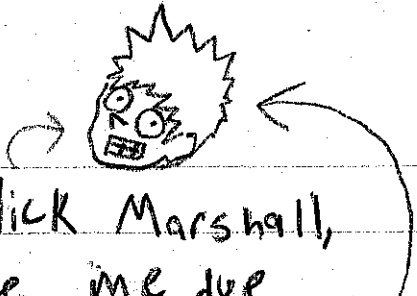


①

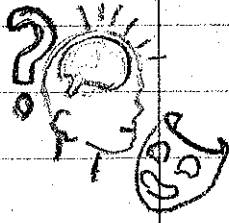


St. Augustine



Good morning! I'm Nick Marshall, and you may recognize me due to my bright green spikey hair. St. Augustine described a sacrament as "an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace." I guess that's along the lines of what I try to represent.

As a matter of fact, that's what I've seen St. Mark's represent for quite some time. What sets this church apart is its acceptance of individuality, and even the acceptance of seemingly contradictory beliefs.



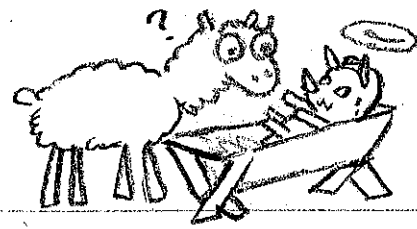
Rather than hammering in an "absolute truth", and nitpicking scriptures to find laws rather than messages, St. Mark's embraces questioning, free interpretation, and even humor.

I'm a Dragon!



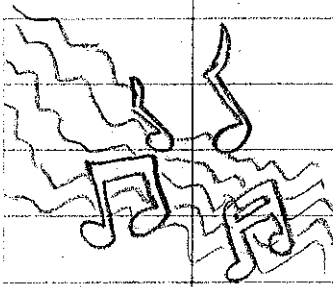
Here at St. Mark's when you start off your first year of the Christmas pageant you're encouraged to be whatever animal you want to be regardless of how uncommon it may be to find in a shepherd's field or a manger.

2



We've even used a toy dinosaur to play the part of baby Jesus.

But I think that that is the mindset that this community embraces: the freedom and encouragement to be whoever you want to be, even if it's not what others expect.



The chords that echo from this organ and through this church couldn't exist with only one pitch being played, and a community will never be harmonious with only one type of person, and St. Marks understands this.

That is why I'm here today.

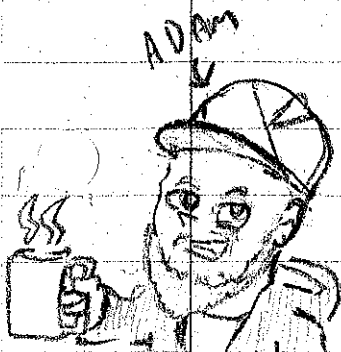
I don't know another church or religious community that I could say the same for.



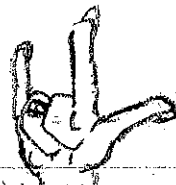
We've got a youth group that proves that judgment isn't necessary for a journey, we've got Allen

who I can only describe as being the most genuine, relateable, and hilarious priest in history, we've got Adam

with the youth group, who has excellent musical taste, and makes amazing coffee. And I was pleasantly surprised



③



to see Ethel AUSTIN at my bands
 Punk Rock show. So yeah, now
 that I'm a senior, soon to graduate
 I'm on my way to college at Columbus
 State, planning to get my art degree
 while managing with any luck to
 get my bands feet all the ground
 with Jory, but I just wanted
 to come today to thank you
 for your support, and encouragement,
 and to help clarify just
 what makes this community
 mean so much, and stand out,
 and the way that I see
 it, It's the fact that St. Marks
 Episcopal Church is willing to
 sacrifice the rhetoric and dogma
 that unfortunately exists in so many
 religious establishments, for real love,
 real acceptance, and a real
 sacrament. So THANK YOU!

