

our kids to interact and communicate with people of all ages.” Her young children love that too, which for them is all about the interactive play. For Leigh, who just started the 3rd grade, she loves the Halloween Parade because “you get to walk around the whole school” and Field Day because, as she says, “I’m really competitive.” For Claire, it’s the teachers. “Even though we’re learning,” Claire says, “they make it really fun. I’m excited to bring my own kids here when I grow up and get married.”

In his time as a parent and grandparent of St. Mark’s, Rick spent nearly 20 years on the Board of Trustees. His favorite memories come from a time when he was Treasurer. What sticks out to him from his years with the school is when St. Mark’s bought the next door property from Shell and converted it into a middle school. “At the time,” Rick adds, “that was a very big deal for St. Mark’s. It was a couple of million dollars and we issued bonds to do it, but it worked. Because it worked, the next big project was the renovation of the original campus. To do that was a 12-million dollar deal. But we got the financing done and we had a nice team of architects and builders execute



Top Left: Jan & Rick Kellogg pictured with daughter Winnie Powell, '98, and her family in Pennsylvania
Above: Leigh, '30 and Ben Powell VII, '33



Ben VI, Leigh, Claire, Winnie, '98, and Ben Powell VII

the project.” It wasn’t always easy. Young mothers were nervous about having their small children around construction materials and enrollment suffered briefly. “But once that heavy yellow iron was off campus, people were saying, ‘Oh, this is really beautiful.’ It was a very attractive school and it maintained that holy spirit that made it St. Mark’s. You feel it when you walk on campus whether we had 300 kids or 460. You’ve got a rector who’s terrific and a head of school who’s terrific, and they’re both pros. So now you have this campus that works well and a church that supports the school’s mission and vice versa.”

As Winnie reflects, the middle school trips are memorable: first to Y.O. Ranch in sixth and seventh grades and then to Washington, DC, in 8th grade, a student favorite still today. She also has very fond memories of Mr. Guillermo, who still works at the school, playing

into some of their eighth grade shenanigans. But more generally, Winnie notes, “my dearest friend to this day has been a friend since she sat next to me in Mrs. Hemley’s 7th grade English class the day she started at St. Mark’s. Our 30-year friendship is such a gift.” Leigh’s favorite memories of the school have been the teachers, especially her 2nd grade teacher last year, Mrs. Grivon. “They’re all really nice,” Leigh adds. One of Claire’s favorite memories is the 4th Grade Fly Up. “I also love walking with my family to school on Fridays. We walk, talk, and listen to music on my mom’s phone. It’s a good way to start the day,” Claire says. *(Continued on page 4)*

“Although there were updates to the campus and curriculum over the years, the heart and soul of the school has not changed.”