



St. Mark's
+
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting
&
Report to the Parish

March 6, 2010 – March 25, 2011

March 26, 2011
6:30 pm

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill , 2010-11

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CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

March 26, 2011

The Nominating Committee is pleased to place the following names before the membership for consideration:

The Vestry: three seats, each for a term of three years

One seat, for a term of one year

Jane Byrne Charles Divine Grady Hedgespeth Charlotte Murray James Ryder Jim Steed Janet Vail

†

Diocesan Delegate: one seat, for a term of three years

Scott Kubista-Hovis Maureen Shea

†

Senior Warden: one seat, for a term of one year

Cecelia Carter Monahan

†

Junior Warden: one seat, for a term of one year

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Wardens: Kenn Allen, Senior John Sedgwick, Junior

Members of the Vestry Mary Lee Watts, Chair; Joe Calizo, Susan Thompson

Members of the Parish: Ryan Velasco, Karen Falk.

The Rev. Paul Abernathy, ex officio

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 26, 2011

5 pm Dinner *provided by the vestry*
2nd Annual Bake-off Competition

6:30 pm Annual Meeting

Call to Order **The Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector**

Opening prayer

Determination of quorum

Special Resolution on absentee voting for this meeting

Approval of the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting

State of the Parish Remarks **The Rector**

Update: *Vision 2020: Capital Campaign* **The Rector, Kenn Allen, Michael Townsend**

Election of the Vestry

Nominations

Candidate remarks followed by Q&A

The vote

Election of the Diocesan Delegate

Nominations

Candidate remarks followed by Q&A

The vote

Consideration of Proposed Amendment to the Parish By-Laws

Remarks by the Retiring Senior Warden **Kenn Allen**

Election of the Senior Warden

Nominations

Candidate remarks

The vote

Remarks by the Retiring Junior Warden **John Sedgewick**

Election of the Junior Warden

Nominations

Candidate remarks

The vote

Acknowledgements

Announcement of the Results of the Voting **The Rector**

Adjournment and Closing Prayer **The Rector**

Minutes of the March 6, 2010 Annual Meeting
DRAFT – for approval at the 2011 Annual Meeting

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector, called to order the meeting of members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the St. Mark's nave at 6:35 pm. The Reverend Susan Beth Pinkerton offered the opening prayer.

Registration officials affirmed a quorum of eligible voters had registered and were in attendance. The motion to approve the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting was seconded and approved by voice vote.

State of the Parish

In his State of the Parish Address, Paul focused attention on "who we are", building on a sermon he had preached three weeks earlier. In so doing, he differentiated "our being" from "our doing" His central thesis was that "our becoming and our calling, although rooted within us, are realized outside of us."

He described us as "a people who yearn to know ourselves and to be known, telling our stories one to another; a people who value our questions as much as, even more than, we trust our answers. A people who, stirred by intellectual challenge and emotional depth, accept one another without the desire that we all be, or even believe, the same; a people who converse without the need to convert; a people of radical open-minded, open-hearted hospitality, all that is within us."

He went on to challenge us that "whatever our becoming and calling are, though alive within us, they are actualized outside of us. Do we believe? If so, then, what do we see? And if we see, then, will we act?" He underscored that outside of us is "the world" and challenged us to look at new, expanded and strengthened ways we can engage with the world.

Report on Parish Finances

Kathryn Powers, Treasurer, did an extensive report on our parish finances. She discussed where our money comes from, when it comes to us, how we manage our cash flow, and where our money goes. She also presented the final report on our 2009 financial performance and our Vestry-approved 2010 budget.

Discerning Future Directions and Needs

Kenn Allen, the Senior Warden, reviewed the steps that have been taken over the past year related to discerning our need for building repairs and renovations that might require a capital campaign. These include creation of, and work by, a Building Task Force; contracting with appropriate vendors to undertake a series of building studies; contracting with the Episcopal Church Foundation for consulting support for a formal discernment process; and appointment of a Steering Committee to lead us through that process. Members of that team then spoke about their specific responsibilities : Ed Corr for the building studies; Doris Burton for the 'dreamcatching' process; Jane Rutherford for engagement with the community and Mike Townsend for ongoing communications.

Nomination and Vote on Candidates for Vestry Members

Christine Farrell, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Christine Farrell, Kristen Hartke, David Deutsch, and Linda Ewald; Paul Abernathy, ex officio) placed the names of the following candidates for the Vestry on the floor for consideration: Marilu Sherer, Jim Steed, Michael Knipe, Bill Dickinson, and Rick Hayes. The Rector called for nominations from floor. No other nominations were made. A motion to close the nominations was made, seconded, and approved.

Each nominee offered a three-minute address. Questions were then posed to the candidates who were given one minute each to respond to the following questions:

1. The shower represents....
2. "We want to reach out to the world but we can do that only if our base is solid." Comment.
3. Assume you have been elected. A parishioner calls you to complain of the increasing number of noisy children during the service. How do you respond to this?
4. Of the recently launched initiatives (Governance Task Force, Race & Reconciliation Committee, Member-

ship Development Committee, discernment process for a possible capital campaign), which has the greatest priority for you and why?

At the close of the q & a period, ballots were distributed. The Rector named Linda Ewald and David Deutsch as tellers for the election and instructed the voters to vote for three candidates to ensure their ballot would be counted. The voters then cast their ballots.

Nomination and Vote on Candidates for Diocesan Delegate

Christine Farrell, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented Rick Rutherford for Diocesan Delegate. A motion to close the nominations was made, seconded, and approved. The question was called and Rick was elected by acclamation.

Nomination and Vote on Junior Warden.

Christine Farrell on behalf of the Nominating Committee placed the name of John Sedgewick, current Junior Warden, for a second term of one year. The Rector called for nominations from the floor. No other nominations were made. A motion to close the nominations and elect John Sedgewick by voice vote was made, seconded and approved. John Sedgewick was elected for one year term.

Nomination and Vote on Senior Warden

Christine Farrell on behalf of the Nominating Committee placed the name of Kenn Allen, current Senior Warden, for a second term of one year. The Rector called for nominations from the floor. No other nominations were made. A motion to close the nominations and elect Kenn Allen by voice vote was made, seconded and approved. Kenn Allen was elected for one year term.

Announcement of Results of the Balloting

The Rector asked all candidates to come forward to be recognized and thanked by the community for offering their services to the community. The Rector then announced that Bill Dickinson, Rick Hayes, and Marilu Sherer had been elected to the Vestry for three-year terms.

Acknowledgements

The Rector individually recognized members of the church staff for their contributions to the community: Susan Block, Parish Administrator (Finance and Membership); Caitlin Jacobs, Parish Administrator (Programs and Facilities); Edwin Green, Maintenance Contractor; Warren O’Hearn, Bookkeeper.

The Rector then recognized each of the departing Vestry members, Doris Burton, Christine Farrell, and Kristen Hartke. Retiring Pillar Chairs were also recognized: Art – Rick Hayes, Outreach – Grace O’Neill, Christian Education – Brock Hansen, Nadine Hathaway, Don Lipscomb, and Heather Powers, and Parish Life – Elizabeth Long.

The Rector thanked retiring Diocesan Delegate Bill Dickinson for his service. He recognized and thanked Kenn Allen, John Sedgewick, David Deutsch and Linda Ewald, along with retiring members of the Vestry for their service on the Nominating Committee. He also acknowledged other members of the Vestry and the volunteers who assisted with lunch, check-in, vote tabulation, and supervision of children during the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the Rector offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Raiford Gaffney on behalf of Greg Niblett
Register

STATE OF THE PARISH

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

Can you hear it? The constant humming of the kind made by an electrical transformer pulsating with energy. Can you hear it? I can. Every day. It's the sound of our vibrant community.

I thank Mike Townsend for the humming metaphor. In an email exchange, he wrote:

'...I must tell you that St. Mark's seems to be humming right along these days. The Children's Chapel appears to be a big hit (it is with all three of my kids), the homiletical drama was really cool, and the Bill Flanders-inspired services we have right now have been interesting. I also thought Jude did a very nice job last week (with his sermon) – he's a great addition...'

My agreement couldn't be heartier nor my gratitude greater. So...

I thank **Susan Flanders** for organizing our Children's Chapel, which, debuting on Sunday, January 16, is a kid-friendly overture to our formal liturgy, filled with interactive participation. Children's Chapel more largely also represents our communal value of welcome and inclusion.

I thank **Bill Flanders** for his inspiration and design of our panentheism-themed services during the latter part of Epiphany. These liturgies (which, among many features, coupled extra-scriptural readings with biblical texts, modified some of our traditional language with an eye for simplicity and an ear for clarity of speech, employed silent meditation in prayer and new songs) called us to enter our Sunday morning experience alert to fresh personal insights and revelations. They also pointed to our long-standing practice of liturgical experimentation and innovation, ever looking for new ways to engage the ineffable mystery of the holy so to deepen our understanding of our human existence.

I thank **Jude Harmon**, a student of the Virginia Theological Seminary and our seminarian for this (and the next!) academic year. Jude, youthful in zest, appealing in spirit, and sharp in intellect, indeed, is "a great addition" to our life in community. Moreover, his presence lengthens the arc of our history as a parish deeply engaged in the church-wide labor of the formation of priests. In the fall, **Kristen Hawley**, a member of our Diocese of Washington and a VTS student, will join Jude as our second seminarian.

Continuing this theme of the nearly-audible "humming" of our communal energy and in accord with my relational rubric that one must ne'er tire of saying "thank you", I express my gratitude to:

Bill Dickinson and **Erika Lehman** for their leadership of our financial Canvass last fall. I thank all of us who made pledges to support our mission and ministry in this year. I am especially thankful that in the midst of (what I pray are) the final pangs of the great recession of fall 2008, our Canvass can be declared a success. And though we wrestle with a static pledge base and the ever present concern about "burn out", our stewardship expressed in the giving of dollars and time and talent remains strong – all signs of the deep roots of our common commitment.

Christine Farrell (Arts), **Penny Farley**, **Katherine Loevinger**, **Will Long**, and **Bobbi Smith** (Christian Education), **Amanda Folsom** and **David Johnson** (Outreach), **Kristi Kubista-Hovis** (Parish Life), and **Jan Lipscomb** and **Loretta Veney** (Worship) for their stalwart efforts in nurturing and advancing the programmatic life of our parish. They and the numerous folks who serve with them in these vital areas of ministry carry the banner of our tradition of lay leadership.

The members of our **Vestry**, our **Parish Officers**, and our **Wardens**, especially, **Kenn Allen**, our Senior Warden, my gallant partner in the sublime art of policy-leadership with whom I have met weekly for the past two years, for unstinting service in faithfully guiding our community.

Kenn Allen, **Doris Burton**, **Ed Corr**, **Jane Rutherford**, **John Sedgewick**, and **Mike Townsend** who guided us toward last November's Vestry decision to launch this coming fall a much needed capital campaign. I am

grateful that each of them remains committed to this work as we move from ideation to implementation. I perceive at the heart of this endeavor the abiding spirit of those of us who, in the previous generation, literally carved out our undercroft, granting us more space to “live and move and have our being” as a community. In this, I also behold our prescient and compassionate vision to look ahead, making ready for those who will come in the following generation.

The members of our **staff** and our **contractors** with whom it is my privilege to share life daily, laboring on your behalf. In this regard, with the mid-January departure of **Susan Pinkerton**, with whom I was exceedingly grateful to share priestly collegial life for two years, I also thank the members of the Assistant/Associate Rector Search Committee, **Betsy Athey** and **Kitty Donnelly**, co-chairs. My trust in them – their love for our community and their careful work of discernment – could not be higher. I share my appreciation, too, for **Megan Courtney**, our Director of Youth Ministries since August 2009, who has infused our youth program with vitality. Megan is slated to leave us in mid-summer as she prepares to enter graduate school in the fall. I am pleased that she will lend her hand, as **Sian Jones** before her, in assisting me in searching for her successor.

Everyone whom I have not mentioned by name who in this past year through countless deeds, publicly and privately, known and unknown, has strengthened the inner fiber of our character as a community of open hands, open hearts, and open minds.

The hum. Can you hear it now?

Now, for those of us who revel in numbers, I share some of the data included in our annual Parochial Report to our diocesan and national church offices:

	Pledge units	Pledge adults	Children (pledges)	TWASM Recipients	Visitors	Ave. Sun. Attend.	Baptized ⁵ Members	Communicants ⁸ In Good Standing
08⁴							830	
09	361	534	137	1000	233 +children	291	+31/-5= 856⁶	654 (536A*/128Y*)
10	379	559	142	1420	399 +children	284	+28/-2= 882⁷	676 (541A/135Y)

⁴Included as a baseline

⁵Recorded in our official Parish Register via Baptism, Confirmation, or Letter of Transfer.

⁶Baptism (23), Confirmation (2), Reception (1), Transfer (2)

⁷Death (1), Transfer to another congregation (1)

⁸All baptized members who, in 2010, contributed time, talent, and money to support the life and mission of our community.

*Adults/Youth

	Sunday Eucharist	Week day Eucharist	Private Eucharist	Marriage	Burials
09	104	21	16	4	2
10	144 ⁹	42	8	5	4

⁹Increase reflects addition of the 5 pm Sunday service

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT : Kenn Allen

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in so many different ways to sustain our stability as a faith community – with a special thanks to Paul for his leadership and support.

Here are five things you have helped us accomplish:

1. We have a strong brand that we are communicating effectively. It began with Paul's every Sunday invitation for all to join us at the communion table; built momentum in the 2009 strategic map that emphasized our ethos of openness; was made publicly visible on our church-front banner. Now, we are "The Church of the Open Communion", a reflection of our commitment to welcome all, no matter where they are on their faith journey.

That same message can be seen in our excellent advertising and our new website, designed both to draw in those who are seeking a faith community and to serve our current members. Soon, TWASM will morph into a new e-version of "The Gospel" and there are more new features yet to come.

The new Marketing and Communications Committee will be responsible for managing our brand and coordinating now loosely connected activities to make us even more visible and understood.

2. Parish finances are in good shape. Like many churches, our finances have suffered, primarily because of the recession but also the realities of changing lives – retirement, relocation, retrenchment – that affect our income.

At the same time, 44% of our pledge units increased their pledges for 2011 and 48 individuals and families pledged for the first time over the last two years.

Our total reserves (the balance in our operating account plus our designated "parish reserve" and "building replacement reserve" accounts) dropped by only \$8,000 from 12/31/08 to 12/31/10 with one-third of that our contribution to Haiti relief.

The Endowment Board and the Vestry updated the endowment pay-out policies, releasing new funds that supported the initial building studies required for the capital campaign and development of the website.

3. We are well on our way to a capital campaign that will improve and expand our physical plant. In 2008, we set the two-year goal of preparing for a capital campaign – knowing what we wanted to do, what it would cost, and the feasibility of raising the money to do it. With widespread input and support from the entire community, we are focused on a fall 2011 campaign that will lead to new office space, renovations to existing space, creation of new program space and new, more environmentally sustainable systems.

4. We have begun to clarify and strengthen our parish governance and management. The Governance Task Force analyzed our current structures and systems and provided a practical set of steps to improve both. The Vestry formally chartered the Pillar Council and approved the concept of a new Christian Education Council with final approval to come later this year. Members of the Vestry have strengthened their liaison roles with the Pillars, our youth ministry and key committees.

5. We have taken ever stronger steps into the world outside our doors. Our traditional Outreach programs remain strong and, even with tighter budgets, we have sustained our financial commitments to community and diocese. We have created new opportunities for service by youth and families and our commitment to Honduras has grown through increased adult participation.

With strong support from the parish, the Vestry approved our public support for same sex marriage. Responding to leadership from within the parish, the Vestry chartered the Middle East Working Group to engage us with issues in the Holy Land. Individuals within the parish have taken a lead role in an ecumenical effort to respond to the crisis in Haiti; others have begun dialogue with churches in other neighborhoods that can lead to new cooperative actions here in the city.

Serving as your Senior Warden has been one of the greatest times of my life.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

JUNIOR WARDEN/MANCIPLE/FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

John Sedgewick, Junior Warden
Norm Wolfe, Manciple

Members: Andy Wenchel , Ben Schaibly, Charley Donnelly, Charlie Rupp, Christina Herman, Crane Miller, Don Lipscomb, Don Mosher, Jack Burton, Jack Richards, Raiford Gaffney, Rick Warfield, Terry Adlhock

Activities: Assessed all projects in the context of the upcoming capital improvement campaign. Deferred those that could potentially be impacted by the work done in support of the capital improvement. Completed the shower project in support of the shelter program. Prepared security guidance for open/closing St. Mark's for Vestry approval.

Required maintenance:

Painted exterior wrought iron fencing/ eliminated potential hazardous condition w/ deteriorating lead paint. Addressed a variety of issues associated with utility expenses:

- to reduce natural gas usage, turned off unneeded continuously burning pilot lights in kitchen, which also reduced kitchen heat.
- turned down thermostats during heating season
- Closed windows and sealed upper sashes in closed position.
- reduced electrical usage by turning up thermostats during cooling season

ASSISTANT RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT:

The Rev. Susan Beth Pinkerton resigned from her position effective January 16, 2011. No report was submitted prior to her departure,

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathryn Powers

Overview

In spite of careful spending on everyone's part, 2011 expenses of \$837,223 exceeded income of \$824,487 by \$12,736 necessitating use of surplus funds from past years that we have carried in our general fund balance.

Audit : Our 2009 audit by John Angevine, CPA, shows that all our books are in order. The audit was conducted in accordance with the principles authorized by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

2010 Budget: At its February meeting the Vestry approved the 2011 budget of \$856,349. This is \$32,377 less than the 2010 budget. The budget is based on total projected income of \$856,349 of which \$805,000 is from pledges.

Full time staff and contractors continue to be our greatest expense, \$555,029 or 64.8% of the total. Building expenses are \$140,000 or 16.3%. We budgeted less for property this year in anticipation of the capital campaign and expected resulting improvements to the physical plant.

We expect to hire a new assistant/associate rector for the second half of the year and kept sufficient funds in the budget to cover the costs of search, possible relocation, salary, and benefits for that person.

We were able to increase the allocation to the parish programs that have been financially constrained the past two years. We also budgeted to replace staff computers that are at the end of their expected useful lives.

Finance Committee Kathryn Powers, Treasurer; Linda Ewald, Josie Jordan, Crane Miller, Janet Vail; Vestry representatives: Bill Dickinson, Susan Thompson, Vicki Street: Ex-officio: Paul Abernathy, Kenn Allen, John Sedgewick

Budget 2011 Final based on \$800,000 in pledges: 2/9/11

	2010 <u>Actual</u>	2011 <u>Budget</u>
Pledges This Year	\$646,382.38	\$656,000.00
Pledges Past Years	\$18,058.65	\$12,000.00
Pledges Next Year	\$96,740.19	\$125,000.00
Special Offerings	\$2,311.80	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$124.00	\$200.00
Plate	\$37,519.53	\$33,000.00
Wedding Fees	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00
Bank Interest	\$2,350.23	\$1,800.00
2009 Surplus	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Parish Reserve	\$0.00	\$5,349.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>\$804,736.78</i>	<i>\$836,849.00</i>
Pub	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
Players	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Yoga	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Music Studio	\$0.00	\$600.00
Dance Studio	\$3,700.00	\$3,000.00
<i>Total Parish Organizations</i>	<i>\$8,500.00</i>	<i>\$9,000.00</i>
Outside Counselling Services	\$2,600.00	\$2,500.00
Use of Buildings - Other	\$8,650.00	\$8,000.00
<i>Total Outside Organizations</i>	<i>\$11,250.00</i>	<i>\$10,500.00</i>
<i>Total General Fund Receipts</i>	<i>\$824,593.86</i>	<i>\$856,349.00</i>

	2010 <u>Actual</u>	2011 <u>Budget</u>
Rector's Salary	\$57,578.04	\$74,117.00
Rector's Housing	\$59,118.72	\$42,000.00
Rector's Social Security	\$8,883.00	\$8,883.00
Associate Rector's Salary	\$29,832.98	\$40,000.00
Associate Rector's Housing	\$28,560.00	
Associate Rector's Social Security	\$4,477.01	
Youth Director	\$35,499.96	\$35,500.00
Parish Administrator for Finance & Member-	\$47,000.04	\$47,000.00
Parish Administrator for Programs & Facilities	\$42,508.32	\$41,500.00
Organist and Music Director	\$51,452.11	\$60,000.00
Children's Choir Director	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Temporary Staff	\$1,000.88	\$1,000.00
Nursery Workers	\$7,717.97	\$8,000.00
Clergy Pensions	\$33,201.12	\$29,700.00
Staff Pensions	\$4,144.80	\$10,626.00
Clergy Insurance	\$19,848.38	\$16,344.00
Staff Insurance	\$28,144.58	\$28,363.00
Workers' Compensation	\$5,321.00	\$1,300.00
Payroll Taxes	\$13,675.25	\$14,076.00
Relocation	\$0.00	
Relocation	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Total Payroll and Related	\$477,964.16	\$463,909.00

	2010 <u>Actual</u>	2011 <u>Budget</u>
Diocesan Pledge	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Bookkeeper	\$20,120.00	\$20,120.00
Office Expenses	\$4,308.45	\$5,000.00
Postage	\$3,981.47	\$4,000.00
Telephone	\$5,455.77	\$6,000.00
Canvass	\$550.00	\$1,000.00
Audit	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Payment Processing Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vestry	\$1,941.52	\$2,000.00
Computer Operations	\$7,364.44	\$15,500.00
Copier Operations	\$13,331.67	\$13,700.00
Advertising	\$2,948.37	\$3,500.00
<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>\$66,001.69</i>	<i>\$76,820.00</i>
Sexton	\$69,475.44	\$71,000.00
Repairs and Incidental Maintenance	\$12,559.60	\$13,000.00
Recurring Maintenance & Service	\$12,130.87	\$13,000.00
Trash Removal	\$5,068.45	\$6,000.00
Utilities - Church	\$58,303.52	\$60,000.00
Utilities - Baxter House	\$9,808.73	\$10,000.00
Property Insurance	\$28,471.84	\$29,000.00
Supplies	\$8,411.64	\$9,000.00
<i>Total Property</i>	<i>\$204,230.09</i>	<i>\$211,000.00</i>
<i>Total General Fund Expenditures</i>	<u><i>\$837,222.89</i></u>	<u><i>\$856,349.00</i></u>

Table 1: Budget Summary

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Church Ministries	\$38,150	\$47,275	\$48,850	\$27,525	\$34,300	\$39,420
Clergy Discretionary Funds	\$2,100	\$4,100	\$4,100	\$0	\$2,400	\$3,400
Clergy Training	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Worship	\$3,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$3,100	\$4,400
Christian Education	\$6,750	\$3,375	\$6,250	\$3,225	\$1,000	\$1,800
Music	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$5,500	\$8,500
Youth & Children's Activities	\$3,500	3,500	5,000	4,500	4,000	\$4,000
Coffee	\$700	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Nursery Supplies	\$500	\$500	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$120
Parish Directory	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Communications	\$6,500	\$9,500	\$7,700	\$6,500	\$11,000	\$4,000
Hospitality/Membership	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
Search	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Parish Life	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Postulancy: Dill/Gaddis	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$0	\$2,000	\$3,000
Race & Reconciliation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
Diocesan Pledge	\$78,590	\$78,590	\$90,817	\$46,879	\$40,000	\$40,000
Outreach	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$26,000	\$20,000	\$24,000
Clergy/Staff;Salary/Benefits	\$422,814	\$465,253	\$527,602	\$504,004	\$484,243	\$463,909
Contractors	\$86,315	\$86,958	\$86,958	\$88,506	\$88,958	\$91,120
VTS Seminarian	\$800	\$800	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,200
Building Maintenance; Utilities	\$149,679	\$164,006	\$161,673	\$146,925	\$167,600	\$140,000
Church Office Operations	\$53,600	\$58,400	\$56,600	\$47,625	\$52,525	\$56,700
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$859,948	\$931,282	\$1,003,400	\$888,464	\$888,726	\$856,349

Table 2: Reserve Funds

			2008	2009	2010	2011
General Fund Balance			\$191,535	\$151,510	\$164,410	\$149,830
Building Replacement Reserve			\$29,065	\$22,203	\$21,163	\$21,163
Parish Reserve Fund			\$71,313	\$55,807	\$55,807	\$53,307
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS			\$291,913	\$229,520	\$241,380	\$224,300

Table 3: Pledge Information

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of Pledge Units	384	419	390	367	359	367
Total Pledge Amount	\$848,050	\$885,923	\$867,433	\$815,324	\$803,427	\$804,642
Average Pledge Amount	\$2,208	\$2,114	\$2,224	\$2,222	\$2,238	\$2,192

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Penny Hansen, David Willson, *co-chairs*

The St. Mark's Endowment was created by a Vestry-approved Charter in 2002 to allow parishioners to contribute to the long term needs of the Church through donations to several Funds (see descriptions below). The Funds support individual projects within specific areas of church life but do not duplicate or supplement the operating budget, which is supported primarily by annual pledges. The Endowment is managed by an Endowment Board, the members of which have specific functions and are approved by the Vestry.

Contributions and bequests are presently invested in the Vanguard STAR Fund (VGSTX), which follows a balanced investment approach by placing 60% of its assets in common stocks, 33% in bonds; and 7% in cash. In the wake of the financial crisis of late 2008 and early 2009, the Board re-examined the STAR Fund on multiple occasions in 2010 and concluded that the fund remains a low-cost, well-managed investment that is appropriate for the Endowment's moderate to conservative investment goals. With the rebound of the market in the second half of 2010, the value of the Endowment rose by 11.5% to \$978,710 by December 31(see attached table).

In 2009, the Vestry approved a new distribution methodology. Beginning in 2010, a maximum of 5% of the average value of the Endowment, as calculated from the quarterly values over the previous three years, may be distributed annually. The new distribution method is the most common used in the non-profit world, including by the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. The change allowed the Board to approve several important projects in 2010 that would not have been possible under the old system.

Description of Funds and 2010 Disbursements and Activities:

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, the Fund provides for improvements to church facilities. The Vestry's decision to investigate the feasibility of a capital campaign to expand and improve the physical capacity of the church led to a proposal for Endowment support of a Capital Campaign Discernment Process (see the Senior Warden's report for further details). The Board voted a total of \$28,907 for this effort, \$23,407 of which came from this fund.

Hoitsma Fund: Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, the Fund provides for long-term improvements to our buildings that are not covered by the operating budget. In 2010, the Vestry requested and the Board approved \$4,982 to be used in the Capital Campaign Discernment Process.

General Fund: This Fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the church. In 2010, the Vestry requested and the Board approved a grant of \$6,020 to develop an updated and expanded web site for the church – the first such expansion in 10 years. These funds supplemented \$2,980 that the Endowment had given the Vestry in 2008 for a membership development project that was not utilized. The full Endowment-supported cost of the Web update project was therefore \$9,000.

Verna Dozier Fund: Initially set up in 2000 from funds donated but not needed for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory, the Fund provides educational scholarships for college-bound seniors at Dunbar High School who aspire to become teachers. Among other criteria for selection, students submit essays on the importance of teaching. Awardees are selected by the DC College Access Program. In past years, one to three individual scholarships have been given. None were given in 2010 but the Board intends to give two in 2011. Two donations of \$100 each were received.

Craighill Dance Fund: Set up in 1984 by a gift from the Craighill family to support the St. Mark's Dance Stu-

dio, the Fund also includes the Beryl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for promising dancers. Projects are formulated by the Vestry-approved Dance Board, which requested and was granted \$4,820 for four scholarships in 2010.

Arts Fund: This Fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. The Arts Council, which is responsible for project formulations in this fund, returned \$3,113 to the Endowment from the 2008 grant to the St. Mark's Concert Series.

Holtkamp Organ Fund: Set up in 1998, this Fund provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. Fund disbursements can be requested by the Music Director. No requests or disbursements were made in 2010.

Other Special Purpose Funds: Education, Outreach, and Worship Funds are authorized in the 2002 Charter but have not received any funds to date.

If you have questions about any of the St. Mark's Endowment Funds or would like to make a contribution, please contact one of the Board Members listed below.

Beth Mahood (Treasurer), John Edwards (Architect) , Mike Townsend (Investment)

Financial tables follow on page 16



David Evelyn

St. Mark's Endowment Funds
Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2010

12/31/2010

	Total	General	Arts	Building Preservation	Hoitsma		Holtkamp		Dozier Education	Craighill Dance
					Capital Improverment	Organ Maintenance				
A) Fund Value end of 2010 (December 31, 2010)	\$978,710	\$126,019	\$47,346	\$520,130	\$101,175	\$22,522	\$39,793	\$121,725		
B) Beginning Fund Value end of 2009 (December 31, 2009)	\$910,284	\$118,950	\$39,252	\$487,585	\$95,090	\$20,164	\$35,626	\$113,618		
C) YTD Change in Market Value since Dec 31, 2009	\$104,232 11.5%	\$12,979 10.9%	\$4,982 12.7%	\$55,952 11.5%	\$11,067 11.6%	\$2,359 11.7%	\$3,967 11.1%	\$12,927 11.4%		
D) New Deposits / Donations During 2010										
Refund Arts Fund unused balance (note a/)	\$3,113		\$3,113							
Balance in Endowment Transfers Fund	\$20	\$20	0							
Balance in National Capital Bank account	\$90	\$90	0							
Donations to Dozier Education Fund	\$200	0	0				\$200			
D) Subtotal - New Deposits During 2010	\$3,422	\$110	\$3,113				\$200			
E) 3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of Dec 31, 2009 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)	\$924,661	\$125,346	\$41,076	\$468,145	\$116,891	\$19,360	\$33,778	\$120,066		5%
F) 2010 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2010 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance)	\$46,233	\$6,267	\$2,054	\$23,407	\$5,845	\$968	\$1,689	\$6,003		
Add: Remaining unspent balance from prior years	\$3,113	-	\$3,113	-	-	-	-	-		
F) Funds Available to Spend in 2010	\$49,346	\$6,267	\$5,167	\$23,407	\$5,845	\$968	\$1,689	\$6,003		
Spending / Committed during 2010										
G) Disbursements in 2010										
Dance Scholarship - S. Johnson (2009-10)	\$2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000		
Dance Scholarship - A. Diaz-Oshin	\$250	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$250		
Dance Scholarship - A. Verdelle	\$570	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$570		
New Website Development (note b/)	\$6,020	\$6,020	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Dance Scholarship - S. Johnson (2010-11)	\$2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000		
Capital Campaign Discernment Process	\$22,389	-	-	\$22,389	-	-	-	-		
Capital Campaign Discernment Process	\$6,000	-	-	\$1,018	\$4,982	-	-	-		
G) Subtotal - Disbursements in 2010	\$39,229	\$6,020	\$0	\$23,407	\$4,982	\$0	\$0	\$4,820		
H) Approved & Committed to be Carried over to 2011										
Capital Campaign Discernment Process (note c/)	\$518	-	-	-	\$518	-	-	-		
I) Remaining Funds Available to be Carried Over to 2011 (F-G-H) (Budget less Spending/Committed to date during 2010)	\$9,599	\$247	\$5,167	\$0	\$345	\$968	\$1,689	\$1,183		

NOTES:

- a/ Amount of \$3,113 is the remaining unspent balance of \$4,450 distributed from the Arts Fund in 2008 as seed money to restart the Concert Series.
- b/ Total funding of the new Website is \$9,000, consisting of \$6,020 this year plus \$2,980 funded in 2008 (unspent \$4,000 for membership development)
- c/ Endowment Bd. approved \$28,907 for the Discernment Process. \$23,407 from Building Preservation & \$5,500 from Hoitsma, balance of \$518.

Major Vestry, Senior Warden, or Rector Actions: March 2010 – January 2011	
Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action are listed by month-year (0310 = March, 2010)	
VA0310	Election of Offices: Kathryn Powers as Treasurer; Raiford Gaffney as Register; Norm Wolfe as Manciple; Maureen Shea as Alternate Delegate; and Michael Knipe as Legal Counsel
VA0310	Approved: 2010 Housing Allowances for Paul Abernathy & Susan Pinkerton
VA0310	Approved: Fund-Raising Request for Haiti by parishioner Jessica Sauer.
RA0410	The Rector proposed an interim policy on oral announcements on Sunday mornings and written announcements in the bulletin.
VA0510	Approved: Fund-Raising Request for Samaritan Ministries.
VA0510	Approved: the elevation of Susan Pinkerton from Assistant to Associate Rector.
SWA0510	Approved: Scilla Adams to organize and manage advisory councils.
VA0510	Approved: extended terms of Penny Hansen, David Willson, Jon Edwards and Will Long (Endowment Board) until July 2011.
SWA0510	Endowment funding for \$6000 was transferred for development of the website.
SWA0510	\$3100 unspent from 2008 grant to the St. Mark's Concert Series was returned to Endowment: the money will remain available for future requests related to the Arts.
VA0510	Approved: in-kind contribution of St. Mark's space for the 5th Washington Early Music Festival in June; waived the requirement that they secure their own insurance.
VA0610	Approved: Outreach Fundraising Request for a one-time, two-week long collection to buy food store cards.
VA0710	Authorized: feasibility study to determine the level of support in the parish for a capital campaign. Work to begin in August with a \$25,000 line of credit through the Diocese of Washington
RA0910	Authorized :Paul Abernathy and Kenn Allen to secure a process consultant to assist in developing a new letter of agreement and position description for Paul Abernathy.
VA1010	Approved: Beth Mahood as Member and Treasurer of the Endowment Board.
RA1010	Endorsed: Otis Gaddis for Candidacy to Holy Orders in the Diocese of Washington.
SWA1010	Approved: acceptance of a special offering of an anonymous parishioner for renovation of the wrought iron fence surrounding the church.
VA1110	Adopted: Diocese's "80/60 Coverage Health Insurance" for all employees.
SWA1110	Endorsed: a capital campaign in the fall of 2011.
SWA1110	The sense of the Vestry: do not intend to renovate Baxter House as part of the capital campaign.
SWA1110	Agreed: to sell Baxter House as part of the capital campaign.
VA1210	thanked Governance Tax Force for their excellent work and accepted their report.
VA1210	Approved: Outreach Alternative Gift Fair fundraising event (e-vote)
VA1210	Approved: an invitation to the parish to contribute to a purse to be sent to Erasmus Darwin House in memory of Dr. Hazel Baker via e-vote.
VA1210	Approved: Outreach Mite Box Project during Lent 2011 event (e-vote)
VA0111	Approved: 2011 Housing Allowances for Paul Abernathy.
SWA0111	Approved: anonymous gift of \$54,000 to replenish the Penniman Fund to fully fund (1) the second Life, Community, and Faith (LCF) weekend retreat costs of room and board for all LCF class members and leaders; and (2) room and board retreat costs for all Sunday School teachers who attend the annual Christian Education January, 2011 retreat.
VA0111	Approved: Middle East Working Group Charter.
SWA0111	Approved: Charter for the Marketing and Communications Committee. (cont'd)

VA0211	Approved: establishment of a Christian Education Committee; requested Co-Directors submit proposed revisions to CE charter/by-laws .
VA0211	Approved: proposed amendment to parish by-laws allowing absentee voting, beginning in 2012, under rules developed by the Vestry
VA0211	Approved: 2011 St. Mark's budget.
VA0211	Approved: submission of proposal to the Endowment Board for funds to support creation of a "Green Team" to lead St. Mark's sustainability efforts.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Youth and Family Ministries - Megan Courtney, *Director of Youth Ministries*

With enduring support from dedicated parents, parishioners and clergy, Youth and Family Ministries continues to be empowered to offer diverse and engaging youth programs this year. In addition to offering the traditional youth ministries, we have experienced an exciting year of growth, not only in the number of youth participants, but also in the number of activities implemented. Our youth now have a strong presence in all St. Mark's programs, including Worship, Parish Life, Outreach, music, and more.

This year we continued to offer a family Eucharist at the 9 o'clock service on the second Sunday of the month, to extend the opportunities for children to read the liturgical lessons, distribute bulletins as a beadle, lay serve, and participate in a children's reflection following the gospel. In January, we launched a Children's Chapel under the leadership of Susan Flanders. Meeting every Sunday at 9 (except for the 2nd Sunday, family service) this new 'kid-friendly' service is designed for children ages two through six and encourages participation, learning, moving, and singing. Once again, we invited our children to lead the re-telling of the Christmas story in our time-honored Christmas Pageant. This year's pageant was directed by Nancy Corr (Mother of Mary), and saw more than 60 children participate.

In supporting St. Mark's ethos, we provided activities to create an open and trusting environment for our middle and high school youth to ask questions, grow spiritually, and form distinct peer groups. Our middle school youth established community through an exciting winter lock-in and scavenger hunt on the Hill. This fall, 12 middle school students engaged in a team-building activity during an outing to a local rock-climbing wall. In October, our high school group designed and led a fall lock-in/game night. Both middle and high school groups joined more than 70 other teens in the diocese of Washington to participate in the Cathedral lock-in.

This month we began a confirmation course designed for youth 12 and older who have not been confirmed and who seek to discover who they are and where they belong within their faith community and in the Episcopal Church. The 6-week course explores various topics, e.g., statements of belief, creeds, sacraments, and world religions (led by Nancy Lucas, Clif Grandy, and myself). At the end of the course, class participants will meet individually with Paul Abernathy to discern the level of their interest in the confirmation experience and make plans to participate in or attend the diocesan-wide confirmation service at the National Cathedral in May.

Eleven of our high school youth traveled to Honduras this summer as part of our signature outreach program. This year's biennial teen trip was lead by five adults – Collie Agle, Frank Lloyd, Jordan Meyer, Donna Sabino, and myself. For the first time, teen participants had the opportunity to engage in home stays with local Honduran families in rural, mountainous communities. For two weeks, the group worked alongside these families to implement sustainable agricultural techniques. In addition, the participants taught English lessons at the local primary school. In preparation for the trip, the teen group met monthly and participated in a day-long retreat at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Truly a parish-wide ministry, countless parents and parishioners worked together to host *Wake Up The Earth*, the auction and talent show which helps fund the trip, lead this

year by Julie Murphy and Tucker Harris. Returning from the trip, teens and leaders gave a reflection at both services and provided a warm welcome to Roy Lara (Honduras' in-country trip leader) during his visit to D.C. in October.

To extend outreach opportunities to all age groups, we began a new, monthly family outreach project. Launched in October with the 'Help-the-Homeless' mini-walk for Samaritan Ministry (lead by Gretchen Wilson), we have since held four successful projects. I look forward to developing more outreach activities and finding ways for youth to participate with a variety of outreach organizations. It is my hope that ,by providing these opportunities, we can open dialogue about helping the disadvantaged in our community and come together as families to serve those in need and "care for others with love, justice, and compassion." (St. Mark's mission statement).

Another important goal of our youth program is to provide enjoyable and engaging activities for our elementary school age children during parish-wide events. This ministry is only made possible by parents who graciously volunteer their time in support of our youth programs. We offered fun activities and games for children during the annual meeting, parish picnic, canvass event, and those Sundays when there was no scheduled Sunday school. We also continued our annual Easter egg hunt in both the courtyard and 3rd street gardens. This summer, our children designed and acted out a delightful production of the Dr. Seuss book, *Oh the Places You Will Go* at Shrine Mont, the annual parish retreat. For six weeks, children of all ages joined our summer Sunday school to explore and learn more about the liturgical readings of Pentecost. And, last month, 27 children, parents, and individuals participated in a ski trip to Canaan Valley, West Virginia.

St. Mark's has a diverse and gifted community that values its youth and children as shown by the growing numbers of families and ministries. I would like to express my profound gratitude for all the parents and parishioners who have given their time and energy to make this year's activities possible. Cognizant of the unique gifts our community has to offer our youth and how much our youth has to offer others, I encourage each of us to think of at least one way you might share your gifts with St. Mark's Youth Ministries this coming year.

Summary List of Events Held This Year

Special Events (designed for children ages 4-12):

- Movie night and games during the 2010 Annual Meeting
- Easter egg hunt
- Summer Sunday school exploring liturgical lessons of Pentecost (six weeks)
- Carnival games and relay races at the annual parish picnic
- Canvass event, talent show
- Children's lesson during Sermon Seminar for the Thanksgiving weekend and holiday break in early January
- Children's Chapel (launched January 2011)
- Mardi Gras games and activities during the parish dance

Middle School Events

- Winter lock-in and scavenger hunt
- Fall team-building trip, rock-climbing
- Diocesan cathedral lock-in
- Confirmation class, six weeks (began March 13)

High School Events

- Wake-up-the-Earth festival and fundraiser for the Honduras service trip
- Pre-Honduras group meetings and retreat to Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
- Honduras service trip (two weeks)
- Honduras group report to congregation in September
- Fall lock-in and game night
- Diocesan cathedral lock-in

- Dinner and brunch for Roy Lara (Honduras in-country leader) during his visit
- Brunch for Returning Graduates

Over-arching Youth Programs (for all ages)

- Shrine Mont Play: *Oh the Places You will Go*
- Fall Back-to-School Brunch
- Family Service (2nd Sunday of the month)



Music: Jeff Kempskie, Director of Music

The 2010-2011 season marks the beginning of Jeff Kempskie’s tenure as Director of Music (DoM) at St. Mark’s. This follows a little more than one year of leadership by Interim DoM Jeffrey Workman. Despite two transitional years in a row, the music program remains healthy and includes the participation of a relatively high percentage of parishioners, particularly within the Chancel Choir. It is hoped that fresh energy and ideas combined with the addition of new music to the choral library (for both adults and children) and new recruiting efforts will help reinvigorate the program, increase overall participation, and further enhance the worship services and musical life within the parish.

Worship

The DoM meets bi-weekly with the Rector and once a month with the Worship Planning Team to facilitate long-term planning and develop a sense of the themes and readings for each service so that appropriate music may be selected. In addition to the *1982 Hymnal*, regular use is made of the African-American hymnal, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* (LEVAS). The DoM makes a consistent effort to choose a wide-variety of choral anthems in various styles, genres, and languages in an effort to appeal to a broad range of musical tastes.

Chancel Choir

Members of the Chancel Choir remain a dedicated and regular presence at nearly every Sunday morning worship service (September-June), supporting the congregation in hymns and service music plus offering one or two anthems. Though usually divided between the two services, the ensemble now makes a regular practice of combining for the 11:15 service (second Sunday of the month) in order to pursue more challenging music suitable to a larger group. An effort has been made to develop overall musicianship skills by dedicating time to solfege and sight-singing at the beginning of rehearsals as well as challenging the singers with varied and substantive music. Recruitment efforts this fall and winter have added an additional 3-5 regular singers to the choir, with the total number ranging from roughly 30 to 40 singers depending on the season.

Boys & Girls Choir

Due to the small number of children participating in the choirs in September, the Children’s Choir (Grades 1-3) was disbanded and all children (grades 1-8) became part of the Boys & Girls Choir. Since then, the number of participating children doubled, from 6 to 12+ when all are in attendance. The frequency in which the Boys & Girls Choir actively participates in 9 am services has been doubled. The Sunday/12:45-1:45 rehearsal time proved to be inconvenient, particularly for those families living in Maryland and Virginia, so efforts have been underway to restructure the program. In mid-February, Nadine Hathaway graciously began offering an additional weekly rehearsal time following Sunday school (currently 11-11:30 am) with the goal of attracting new children to the choir. In March, Jeff Kempskie commenced a mid-week rehearsal aimed toward families living on or near Capitol Hill with the purpose of incorporating training from the Royal School of Church Music’s “Voice for Life” curriculum. With approved funding for a paid children’s choir director in the fall and additional recruiting efforts in the Capitol Hill area planned, it is hoped that the children’s choir program will continue to expand in the coming year and become an even more vital part of music and worship at St. Mark’s.

Instruments

The organ and pianos are generally in fine shape. The 1959 Holtkamp organ required some electrical work in addition to its regular tunings, resulting in expenses slightly higher than expected. The Yamaha grand piano in the Nave was partially re-voiced in the fall to improve its tone and its music rack was repaired. Other pianos have received regular tunings and the humidifier systems have been reactivated to prolong tuning. A new Yamaha digital piano was purchased for use during choral rehearsals as well as for occasional performance use. The old digital piano was moved to the undercroft for use with occasional rehearsals and for Children's Chapel.

Music Studio

The St. Mark's Music Studio, formerly a musical training center for the Capitol Hill community, continues to be inactive although the room is still used for occasional rehearsals. Plans are to reopen the Studio by the fall.

St. Mark's Concert Series

The St. Mark's Concert Series remains inactive this year as the Director of Music gets acclimated with his new position. This series will be reinstated beginning this fall.

Special Events

Numerous special events have taken place this year. The Chancel Choir, with the assistance of the Boys & Girls Choir, led an Advent Lessons & Carols service in early December. Seven choir members participated in the Diocesan Convention Choir in January. The choirs led a Choral Evensong service in late February. Early Music group "Modern Musick" performed a concert at St. Mark's mid-February. Harpist Constance Whiteside also provided a concert in the Nave mid-March.

Let it be known that I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to serve St. Mark's as the Director of Music. I am still in awe of the marvelous combination of challenge, cool people, and engaging work that I am continually faced with in my day-to-day work. I am also incredibly pleased to serve a church community that is entirely compatible with my own progressive values and open-minded spiritual beliefs. I have no doubt that this is a "good fit." I thank the members of the Chancel Choir who have dedicated so much time and energy to St. Mark's this past year and who have [hopefully] experienced much fun and joy in the process. Thanks, also, to the parents of the members of the Boys & Girls Choir, a group to whom I am very much devoted. Lastly, thanks to my fellow staff members for all of their patience and support these past several months.



DIOCESAN REPORT:

Prepared by Rick Rutherford, Senior Delegate

Delegates: Rev. Paul Abernathy, Rick Rutherford, David Deutsch, Mark Lindley

Major events

Keynote Speaker: Futurist Bob Johansen ..Challenges and opportunities for the Episcopal Church as well as some new models and considerations for leaders. **(Strongly urge clergy and lay leaders of St. Mark's view this presentation available on the Diocesan web site) Additionally, might be a good basis for discussion at an extended vestry meeting, the annual meeting, a vestry retreat, or parish workshop.**

Bishops Chane's Address - Challenge and Priorities at a Diocesan level:

- How to maintain EDOW (Episcopal Diocese of Washington) services to parishes given economic realities
- Ministries to the Spanish-speaking community (EDOW has 5 such congregations), Bishop John Walker School, 20 Episcopal Schools in EDOW, HIV/AIDS education in S. Africa
- The need for us to be "prisoners of hope" despite economic uncertainty and challenging times

Bishop Chane's closing priorities and challenges to parishes:

- Reach out and encourage diversity and innovation in parish ministries
- Experiment – e.g. try new ideas for at least 4-6 weeks on a pilot basis
- add new worship services to accommodate the needs and schedules of congregants
- create and/or “plant” new congregations
- provide a fresh expression of Anglicanism
- appeal to the young
- EDOW should become a transcending community of faith bringing in and attracting the full spectrum of Christian beliefs
- As parishes continue to be challenged re: membership and resources, need to consider new way of “doing church”; are there areas in which it would benefit congregations to consider consolidation of programs/services /etc.?
- Membership per se is not the end game

Primary Areas of focus for the Diocese over the next year:**Activities associated with the election of our next Bishop**

- The selection of candidates for the 9th Bishop and the process of getting to know them in preparation for the election in June 2011.
- The transition process following the election that allows for Bishop Chane to obtain effective sense of closure and transition duties and knowledge to his successor and creates a process and environment within which our next Bishop can take over feeling as prepared and supported as possible.
- Preparing for significant events in the fall including Bishop Chane's farewell event and the Consecration and Installation of our next Bishop in November.

Diocesan Council efforts to strengthen ties with congregations while developing a better understanding of the factors that contribute to parish vitality and success and those that undermine it.

- Council-sponsored parish visitation project
- Council exploration with Latino congregations to explore the pathway and process to self-sustaining fiscal viability
- Continuing support for congregations undergoing either significant change or in crisis

Diocesan challenges to sustain mission-driven work in a time of financial uncertainty

- While parish giving has declined over the past two years (including that of St. Mark's), contributions to the Bishop's appeal and special gifts have increased
- Continuing to support the ministry performed through our Episcopal schools and campus ministries
- Continuing to explore ways in which a shrinking diocesan staff can continue to administer the business of the diocese as well as provide service to our nearly 90 congregations in ways that are cost effective and innovative, and capitalize on new methods, models, and networking of parishes who may have significant insight to offer to one another
- Maintaining a continuing commitment to youth work
- Sustaining our commitment to our companion diocese program and relationships with those outside our own diocesan boundaries

Final note: The diocese recently launched a new web site that is more user-friendly and contains a significantly more robust amount of information about the programs, services, and activities of the diocese. In addition, the Bishop's convention address and the presentation of this year's keynote speaker, futurist Bob Johansen, are both available and again highly recommended for viewing by all who have an interest.. There will be continual postings of updates and information throughout the Bishop selection and transition process.

Please consider paying periodic visits to the web site to stay abreast of developments and learn more about what is occurring beyond St. Mark's. As a parish we have much to teach and much we can learn and this is a wonderful starting point for us to begin to broaden our perspectives. The diocesan web site address is www.EDOW.org.



REPORTS FROM STANDING AND TASK FORCE COMMITTEES

Race & Reconciliation: *Leon Cover, Peter Sherer, co-chairs*

The committee and its co-chairs, Leon Cover and Peter Sherer, have had an active year. The focus of the committee was to raise the congregation's awareness about white privilege. 'White privilege' is the advantage that white people have in life that enables them to enjoy special advantages that are not available to people of color simply based on race rather than merit.

The strategy this year was to develop a monthly program that would be appealing to individuals with an interest to "go deeper" into race-related material and to develop broader group activities for the whole congregation. For individuals, the approach was to hold monthly meetings to discuss recent race-related articles or books in a group that represented all racial groups in the congregation. After spotty attendance at the beginning of the year, this approach was abandoned because of schedule conflicts with the Sunday sessions and a lack of concentrated interest. A second, deeper approach was to work with the consultants who were hired last year to expand the three-session class to five sessions under the sponsorship of Christian Education. The curriculum for this class has been developed and will be offered in the fall.



Membership Development Committee *Amber Palmer & Stan Smith, Co-Chairs*

This second year of the committee's existence, we tried a number of things with mixed results. The most useful observation is a variation of Edison's comment: 'I now know hundreds of ways how to *not* make a light bulb.'

It was suggested that we replace the current display of name tags in the foyer with a series of alphabetized hooks but that idea was rejected by the Fabric Committee. No one has another alternative to the current arrangement.

Attempts to develop and manage a "welcome table" after each service were unsuccessful. This was one of those ideas that looks good on paper but proved too difficult to arrange. Along with that was the notion of identifying via name tags a group of "welcoming" congregation members, and/or identifying visitors with name tags which identified them by either name, or simply as "visitor". Those false starts have led to something that may work more effectively: there will be six red lanyards available to any member of the congregation who, on any given Sunday, feels in a 'welcoming mood'. The purpose of the red lanyards and the invitation to participate along with an explanation for visitors will be in the weekly bulletin.

The 'First Fridays' invitational needs more time, and perhaps a redirection to determine if it can serve the purpose of encouraging members and curious visitors to "get to know" each other in an informal social gathering. The idea may be more effective if married to some on-going evening activities such as a play, auction, or social event. That idea requires more conversational thought with a variety of people.

We have not seen the results of a survey conducted to determine interest in participation but anticipate it will prove useful and assume it is something that members of the MDC will have available to use.

Some thoughts regarding moving forward in working with the Pillars as a way to help members of the congregation find meaningful involvement in the life of the church and especially in coordinating efforts with Christian Ed and the web site to help curious visitors find their way into our community are being examined.

The departure of Amber Palmer (*ed.* due to marriage) and the conclusion of our term means the MDC will have new leadership under the next Senior Warden. That team may have a different approach to the issues of building membership in the coming years.



Garden Committee: *Ben Schaibly, Chair*

We met formally only four working Saturdays in 2010, which were called meetings, with typically two to five volunteers. The committee worked on the gardens for approximately 20 hours during the course of the gardening season, March through October, inclusive. In addition, various individual members have worked independently from time to time to augment our organized efforts. Most notably, Gail Kelly has really kept the summer weeds in check and planted a good bit of the effective *Pachysandra* ground cover.

Those who worked on the Garden Committee this year include Ryan Velasco, Rachael Lammers, Gail Kelly, Nancy Lightel, Terry Adlhock, Jeffrey Hunter, and Susan Thigpen. Other helpers who have worked hard for our gardens included Elizabeth (Liz) Layton, Susan Pinkerton, Robert Lammers, Linda Huntington, Aaron Woodin-Schwartz, Ali Khawar, and Ben and Mary Flowers. I apologize profusely for anyone I may have left out.

This year the committee worked on the following projects:

- Worked towards removal of annual and perennial weeds, including weedy vines, chickweed, knotweed, henbit, spurge, nimble weed, speedwell and many, many more, through weeding and mulching throughout the spring, summer, and fall months.
- Worked for replacing bare garden areas, which would welcome opportunistic weeds, with well-respected but hardy perennial ground covers, including *Epimedium* (aka, 'Bishop's Hat'), *Ajuga*, ferns (Japanese Painted), and *Pachysandra*.
- Pruned and trimmed the many species of perennials, woody shrubs (hydrangeas and yews), roses and trees, throughout the spring, summer, and fall months.
- Planted and transplanted flowering and other perennials, such as splitting and spreading hostas, to constantly enhance and develop the gardens.
- Edged and trimmed the brick and flagstone borders for a neater appearance.
- Engaged in watering, weeding, mulching, enhancing soils, and fertilizing chores throughout the spring, summer and fall months to constantly enhance and develop the gardens, including monitoring and adjusting our extensive underground watering system, with special thanks to Terry Adlhock for administering that sensitive system for us.
- St. Marks is blessed with very large, beautiful and well-planned gardens, in both its courtyard and 3rd Street Parking (the side gardens). They hold many large, maturing trees and shrubs which require a great deal of maintenance in addition to the more mundane garden chores such as mulching and pulling weeds. The majority of volunteers are civic-minded friends of, but not necessarily members of, St. Marks. I would challenge each member of the parish who enjoys our gardens to consider joining hands with us in working to keep the gardens lovely at least once in the coming year.



Governance Task Force: *Bill Jordan, Heather Burneson, Co-Chairs*

Members: Don Ellison, Grady Hedgespeth, Susan Sedgewick, Jim Shelar, Vicki Street, John Terry, Mary Louise Wagner, David Willson

The Governance Task Force (GTF) was established by the Rector and Senior Warden in the fall of 2009 to examine what was and what was not working in the governance structure of the parish. Over the past year, the GTF has interviewed current and past leaders at St. Mark's, including Wardens, Vestry members, Pillar chairs, and clergy, as well as staff. Throughout the process, the GTF also provided opportunities for the parish at large to express their views. The final report was sent to the Rector and Sr. Warden in early December and presented to the Vestry at their December meeting.

An overview of major findings and recommendations of the GTF are the following:

Findings

A. What's Working at St. Mark's

St. Mark's has a wide variety of robust programs, providing many ways for people to participate in the life of the parish. The lay leaders are active, shouldering large responsibilities, and usually handling those responsibilities well. Generally, there is a strong and effective partnership between lay leaders and the clergy. The parish ethos is "open," creating an atmosphere that allows and encourages parishioners to initiate new activities.

B. Opportunities for Improving Governance at St. Mark's

- Lines of authority and accountability are often unclear and can create an environment where there is insufficient coordination or conflict among programs.
- The open ethos of the parish does not lead to a clear sense of shared community.
- Many lay leadership positions carry significant responsibilities that are harder to fulfill than necessary because of the volume of work, the absence of support, and the difficulty in recruiting volunteers.
- Governing documents are missing, incomplete, and/or out of date.
- Many governance processes lack transparency for the typical parishioner.

Recommendations

The GTF addressed each of the areas listed under "Opportunities for Improving Governance" with several recommendations presented to the Vestry, Rector and Sr. Warden for their consideration, discussion, and possible action. The committee members worked to ensure the recommendations are concrete and achievable based on current staffing and volunteer hours. In all, there are more than 30 recommendations for improving governance at St. Mark's. This reflects not a broken system, but rather an opportunity to improve upon and make more efficient the way in which St. Mark's governs. The Vestry agreed to further review the document, breaking down the issues into manageable pieces that can be addressed individually.

The GTF was dismissed with the thanks of the Vestry after submitting the final report.



Online Task Force: *Kate McFadden, Chair*

Report submitted by Susan Sedgewick, member

The newly re-designed www.stmarks.net web-site was launched August, '10. The Online Task Force, ably led by Kate McFadden, was gratified that the design reflecting our parish's ethos of "telling our stories" while being an "inclusive congregation of individuals" received favorable reviews. Since August, the effort has transitioned to a web-site management team of Kristen Hartke, for overseeing the web-site content related functions, and, starting in November, Susan Sedgewick, for overseeing the professional vendor in the ongoing development of web-site features, especially with regard to those associated with Baxter House functions.

With Paul's web-site blessing and the launch last August, we introduced a new concept to St. Marks for keeping information on the web-site up-to-date. More than 20 people including clergy, staff, pillar chairs, and other program leaders were trained and can now provide new material directly to their area of the web-site. Clergy post their sermons and, when available, Charlie Rupp adds a recording of the sermon. The Director for Youth Ministries, Christian Ed co-directors and Worship pillar chairs are especially active in ensuring information about their programs is interesting and current. In addition, parish staff ensures weekly bulletins, including the announcements, are available online.

The introduction of a new calendar process along with a staff change at a critical juncture led to some scheduling hiccups. Fortunately, the major issues have been resolved and program coordinators are using calendar features to highlight their activities to web-site viewers.

More recently, a capability to allow parishioners to fulfill their pledges with online donations was implemented. Additional features planned for 2011 include the introduction of the online *Gospel According to St Mark's*, a capability to volunteer for teaching Sunday School or a myriad of other things, and a password protected area where pledging members will have electronic access to the parish directory and other items of interest.

Challenges remain with the implementation and management of this newer technology web-site. For instance, some glitches still need to be worked out, we need to develop an ongoing training program for new program leaders, and we need to develop efficient processes necessary for smooth, day-to-day operations. The management team is looking forward to being part of the newly re-created Communication Committee. If you are interested in serving with the management team, please contact Kristen Hartke (khartke@olg.com) or Susan Sedgewick (jssedgewick@gmail.com)

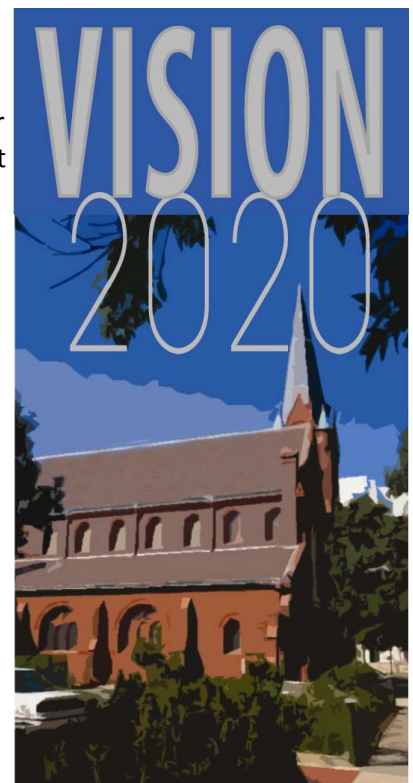


Vision 2020: *Michael Townsend, Kenn Allen, Steering Committee Co-chairs*

Over the past two years, the Vestry has realized that our aging facilities are in need of significant attention and investment. This presented us with an opportunity to consider what we want St. Mark's to become, in terms of our buildings, our programs and our place in the broader community – and what it would take to get there. This effort was dubbed the 'Vision 2020' campaign.

In early 2010, the Vestry retained a consultant from the Episcopal Church Foundation who guided us through a discernment process to determine what changes were needed and how they could be supported. Three committees were organized to work on this effort, and together they produced more than 200 pages of documents and reports. The three committees included:

- The **'Dreamcatching' Committee**, led by Doris Burton, invited all members of the community to articulate their ideas, needs and desires for St. Mark's, yielding more than 1,000 dreams.
- The **Building Committee**, led by Ed Corr and supported by funds from the St. Mark's Endowment, coordinated studies on the state of our buildings and systems, in both the church and Baxter House, and examined relevant legal, zoning, historic preservation and other code issues. The committee then worked with an architect at Bonestra | Haresign Architects to produce several options for construction and renovation which were presented to the community for feedback in September 2010.



**BOLDLY ENGAGING IN
IN OUR FUTURE**

The **Community Engagement Committee**, led by Jane Rutherford, examined St. Mark's relationship with the greater community as well as ways our facilities could function with less impact on, and be more respectful of, the environment. It is clear that St. Mark's remains a highly-valued member of the Capitol Hill neighborhood and that numerous opportunities exist for St. Mark's to meet more needs in the community.

This process yielded a number of conclusions, including:

- Virtually all of our major mechanical systems are approaching the end of their useful lives, which provides us with an opportunity to explore alternative energy systems and other ways to both reduce costs and be better stewards of the environment.
- Zoning and historic preservation laws limit our options for renovation and expansion but a variety of choices remain available.
- Countless current and proposed programming ideas for St. Mark's require additional and more flexible space.
- Our administrative space is unappealing and inaccessible and does not allow for the staff to work in a single location.
- We must improve the accessibility of our facilities while increasing security.
- Baxter House poses serious challenges and would require significant renovation in order to remain functional.

The process also defined a number of goals for our work going forward:

- To preserve our historic property, while renewing our existing spaces, enhancing our mission, and providing for the future of our community.
- To implement sustainable systems throughout our facilities while demonstrating our respect for the world in which we live and upholding our commitment to sustainability as a core value.
- To make our spaces more welcoming, accessible, and available to our members, our guests, and the needs of our community.
- To create additional space for our programs with the flexibility to meet currently known and unforeseen future needs, enabling us to better realize our dreams.
- To strengthen our engagement with and commitment to the community and the world around us.
- To provide our staff with functional, pleasant spaces in which to work that are in one location, easily accessible to our community and the public, safe and secure, and that integrate the staff more fully into the daily workings of the church.

During the fall of 2010, the Episcopal Church Foundation conducted a parish-wide survey and a series of one-on-one interviews with a sampling of parish members to determine the level of enthusiasm for the renovation/construction project and the willingness to support that effort financially. The survey concluded that there was ample enthusiasm and that financial support was achievable. In November 2010, the Vestry approved moving forward with further exploration of an expansion and renovation project that would add a second floor to the Parish Hall, as well as consider expansion of the current Undercroft into the space beneath the current Parish Hall. The Vestry also authorized the eventual sale of Baxter House, the proceeds from which will be used toward the cost of the project.

In February 2011, a request for proposals for the project was delivered to five architects. As this report was being prepared, the selection process for an architect was underway. The goal is for a design scenario to be completed by June 2011. A capital campaign will commence in the fall of 2011, and construction is expected to begin in early 2012.

PILLAR REPORTS

Arts Council

Convener: Christine Farrell

2010 was another exciting year for the arts at St. Mark's. The current chairperson is searching for one new co-chair and the (leaders) of each subgroup continue their role.

- *Visual Arts Group* (David Evelyn) continue to play a part in various aspects of our worship and life. They mounted a Visual Arts Show in the nave during Advent
- *Photographers Group* (Chuck Divine) continues to photograph and electronically preserve most parish events.
- *St. Mark's Players* (Jerry Dale, President) mounted three productions: *Oliver!*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Inherit the Wind* with parish members and community volunteers in the casts and on the production teams. Education seminars were conducted with *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Inherit the Wind*. They also received a WATCH (Washington Area Theater Community Honors) nomination for Best Cameo Performance for *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.
- *Fiber Arts Group* (Michelle Strange) continues to provide artistic outlets for the crafts people of the church and community.
- *Music Studio* has been on hiatus since the departure of Dr. Reas in June, '09. Jeff Kempeskie, DoM, has plans to re-open the studio so stay tuned for the announcement of that date.
- For the 6th year, we hosted the *Washington Early Music Festival* (Raiford Gaffney, coordinator) in June. This year the Festival visited the music of French composers from the Middle Ages to the Baroque, exploring the rich cultural history of France with concerts, lectures and workshops. Keith Reas, former Director of Music, performed in the final concert.

St. Mark's Dance Studio, Rosetta Brooks, Director

The fall registration was held with great success Friday-Saturday, September 10-11, 2010. Our vendor for many years, Alan Harris from Le Gals, brings a huge selection of dance wear and dance shoes for children and adults. The parents particularly like this 'one stop shopping'.

This was the second year holding the registration in the Parish Hall...perfect. Signs were posted to guide everyone to the proper location. We have quite a few grandparents or those who have trouble with steps and they were very grateful. We found that by keeping the foyer door locked and having one door available, it was easier to monitor the traffic in the building.

The website is doing so well that it has decreased the number of phone calls. People are able to email us directly according to the class of their interest. All of the staff is very conscious of being prompt on answering each email. What is really wonderful is that they show up and more than half are still attending their classes.

Sadly, Labor Day Sunday (Sept 5), the studio's office door was forced in and the entire contents of all the cabinets were thrown onto the floor. Nothing was taken and we are guessing that the person was angry to not find money and just trashed the space. In past break-ins, the outer studio doors had been badly damaged by being kicked to enter. Since this did not happen, the outer door was left unsecured by one of the groups which followed. The Dance Studio was on a short break to get ready for the fall and none of the staff was in that space again until Tuesday, September 7.

Rosie extends thanks to Ed Green for repairing the door, re-hanging the mirror, and returning things to the cabinets. He was guessing but did a good job. He and his crew knew I had been cleaning the studio all summer.

We had our annual "Open House" in December 3rd & 4th. The theme was "Collage". The participation of the students (children and adults), Senior Company, Junior Company was full out. Parents, friends, staff put their

heart and soul into making it one of our best. The attendance for both days exceeded anything I could expect.

We have students on scholarship and we ask them to help in different areas. This year I asked a professional caterer parent to provide the refreshments for the Open House Friday night. Anyone who attended can state that the parent went way beyond the call of duty. Visually, it was a sight to behold and quite delicious.

All of the arts were represented...music, dance, visual art, and drama. Several of St. Mark's own visual artists placed several of their works on display, including Betty Foster, Anne Barton and David Evelyn, along with our students. Last fall, the studio lost a long-time student, artist, and friend, Alice Fusillo. Her family was so gracious as to bring several of her pieces to go on display and we dedicated the show to her memory.

In an effort to not use studio funds, we sold t-shirts and actually made a \$40.00 profit. This felt good, for every participant received a token honorarium.

We are now preparing for the annual recitals in June, along with the Dance Companies doing some outreach performances.

St. Mark's Yoga Center - *Christine Romero, Director; Paul Orum, Administrator*

During 2010, the Yoga Center made the following contributions to St. Mark's: \$1,200 for general use of building, \$200 for shower construction, two Yoga class passes to the Shelter Project, \$50 to the parish picnic, and \$50 to St. Mark's Haiti initiative partner, the Children's Medical Mission of Haiti in remembrance of the 1-year anniversary of the earthquake.

Our regular class attendance continued to hold at an average of ten students per class. We owe this to the quality of our teachers and the fulfilling of our mandate to offer "quality Yoga instruction at affordable prices." Also, we have built a resource of good instructors available to substitute teach as needed.

Four special workshops were held: two 'Yoga Nidra' (deep relaxation); 'Awakening the True Self' (an art and Yoga class); and 'Restorative Yoga'. SMYC was able to purchase new yoga mats and blocks, and donated the old mats to a children's camp program.

Passes were donated to silent auctions for the Equal Justice Foundation of GW University Law School, MANNA, and the St. Mark's Player's fundraiser. This is something we would like to offer internally to other St. Mark's programs as well.

SMYC expresses appreciation to Susan Block, Kristen Hartke and the St. Mark's staff who helped us enter the 21st century by adding 'Paypal' to the Center's webpage. Our students very much appreciate this option, although does mean a small 'bite' from 'Paypal' per pass sold.

Our appreciation also goes to everyone who worked on the new St. Mark's website. Having the ability to make changes directly is very useful and the meetings before going live brought us together with other leaders in the St. Mark's community.

There are many areas of synergy yet to be nurtured between the Yoga Center and other groups/Pillars. For example, the committee which welcomes new members can let them know about the 'first class free' at the Yoga Center. Jeff Kempeskie offered to talk to the Yoga students to invite them to join the choir. SMYC looks forward to continuing in-reach into the Church congregation and working with other Pillars of the Church in the coming year.

Outreach

Co-Chairs: Dave Johnson, Amanda Folsom

In June 2010, Grace O'Neill completed her term as Co-Chair of the Outreach Board and Amanda Folsom stepped in, joining David Johnson whose term ends June 2011. The Outreach Board met monthly to conduct

an outreach program review and appraisal, make funding decisions, and receive updates on program status.

Members: Rev. Paul Abernathy and Rev. Susan Pinkerton, Eileen Blumenthal, Bob Ewald, Sally Garr, Susana Gomez, Grace O'Neill, Jack Richards, Jane Rutherford

A sampling of outreach programs and their funding in 2010:

Capitol Hill Group Ministry (\$8,000 + \$630 in grocery cards) assisted neighbors in crisis with funds for rent, mortgage, utilities, food, transportation, and medical expenses. St. Mark's also contributed through the Thanksgiving Basket program, a joint effort of Outreach and Youth, resulting in the donation of over 15 Thanksgiving baskets.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (\$4,000), in partnership with 45 area churches, helped homeless and low-income individuals build new, independent lives through case management and support services provided by the Next Step Program. St. Mark's also contributed through the Sunday food baskets and participation in the Walk for the Homeless.

Action for Community Transformation (ACT) (\$2,500) supported voluntary HIV/AIDS testing and counseling in Meru, Kenya.

Soup Kitchen (\$2,000) supported the monthly preparation of meals at the Church of the Brethren Soup Kitchen where more than 100 hot meals are served each week. St. Mark's continues to provide casseroles and volunteers to chop vegetables and/or make sandwiches for meals the second Sunday of each month.

Shelter Ministry (\$300) supported St. Mark's annual shelter for homeless families during two summer months. To meet the city requirements to continue this program in 2010, St. Mark's successfully raised sufficient funds for the installation of a shower.

Grate Patrol (\$1,100) provided the supplies to make bagged meals on the 4th Sunday of each month for the Salvation Army program of delivering lunches to the homeless living on the streets of DC.

2010 Lenten Mite Box Ministry (\$1,200) supported the Grameen Foundation providing micro-loans in developing countries, and Bishop Walker School, an Episcopal School serving underprivileged boys in Anacostia.

Rag-Dolls-2-Love (\$250) provided supplies to support 25 volunteers making 40 rag dolls to be distributed to children who are at risk for becoming emotionally damaged as a result of war, natural disaster, or serious illness.

Transitional Housing II (\$1000) organized household goods drive to furnish our biennial apartment as well as \$1000 for items which must be new (mattresses, etc) ; in the summer, after an emergency call, collected a variety of goods to help furnish five additional apartments.

Welcome Table at Church of the Epiphany (\$250) provided breakfast and shared worship for 200 people, including many homeless from the surrounding downtown Metro Center area. Eleven members of St. Mark's participated in our first Welcome Table in November 2010, and the parish subsequently committed to participating four times per year in the future.

Youth Outreach Initiative was launched in October 2010 under the leadership of Megan Courtney. The initiative includes monthly outreach service projects designed specifically for youth and families (but open to all). Youth Outreach projects in 2010-11 included the *Help-the-Homeless mini-walk* to benefit Samaritan Ministry, the Capitol Hill Group Ministry Thanksgiving Basket collection, a Christmas giving tree for Jason Earnest (St. Mark's teen) and his unit in Afghanistan, and casserole-making for the Soup Kitchen.



Christian Education

Co-Directors: Bobbi Smith, Katherine Loevinger, Will Long, and Penny Farley

Our Christian Education program set its course this year "to engage in our shared search for meaning and be-

longing.” Our classes thus far have been very successful! We are gratified that classes have had a wide variety of participants including a significant number of young parishioners both as members and teachers. We have encouraged all classes to have both spiritual and experiential components to deepen and broaden the content.



In designing this year’s program, we were informed by the feedback from the Christian Ed Dinners which took place in mid-March 2010 and had 120 participants including a facilitator, a scribe, and dinner hosts for each of ten gatherings. The scribes’ notes resulted in a report written by Betty Foster and Peter Eveleth which emphasized several needs including: classes of varying lengths, a Christian Ed Council, a paid Christian Ed director and a plan to attract new members and young families.

We were able to offer courses that range from ½ day in length to one that had 10 sessions with 2 weekends. This year’s catalog of 30+ course offerings was designed (thanks to Karen Falk), printed and widely distributed in September. To give the Parish an up-to-date sense of the 2010-2011 Christian Education Program, these charts provide a snapshot of participation in classes and events which tells the story of engagement so far:

We are pleased to announce that the Penniman Fund, which was to expire this spring, has been replenished with an extraordinary donation. This gift will continue for an estimated 5 years to fully fund the Life, Community and Faith (LCF) second weekend retreat for all class participants and to allow current Sunday school teachers to attend the Christian Ed weekend without personal cost. This generous gift undergirds the program’s dedication to making LCF more affordable for the largest number of parishioners and to support our hard-working Sunday school teachers with our enrichment weekend.

Looking to the near future, we are moving ahead with a plan for a return to staggered terms for the Christian Ed co-directors in order to assure continuity, a smoother transition, and adequate preparation for the responsibilities of the job.

We are grateful to all those who have taught, supervised, and participated in Christian Education this year. The heart of the program depends on both those who teach and those who take classes – it is the mutual engagement in our community that ensures the belonging we seek.

The Co-directors of Christian Education Program 2010-2012 look forward to your continued robust participation in the Christian Education program!

Participation in Christian Education Fall Classes and Events (May ‘10 – February ‘11)			
Adult Classes	Participants	Leaders /Supervisor	Total
Forgiveness, Penniman Class	20	4	24
Nuts & Bolts – Adult Training	13	2	15
Introduction to St. Mark’s (2)	15	4	19
Life, Community & Faith – Fall	19	6	25
Baptism Class	10	3	13
Temptation Class	8	5	13
Beyond the Frame (3)	30	5	35
Israel/Palestine – Samaritan Class	33	4	37
Women’s Class	20	4	24
Christian Ed Weekend	23	4	27
Men’s Class	14	4	18
Life, Community & Faith – Spring	18	5	23
What’s an Episcopalian?	4	1	5
Totals	227	51	278

Sunday School	Range of Weekly Participation	Number Registered	Teachers and Supervisor	Total
Pre-K thru K	8-15	15	4	
Grades 1-3	8-18	28	4	
Grades 4-5	5-15	21	4	
Middle School	7-14	19	4 + 1	
High School	6-11	14	4+1	
Totals	34-73	97	22	119

❖
Worship

Co-chairs: Jan Lipscomb, Loretta Veney

The Worship Pillar is doing very well. Jan and Loretta are nearing the end of their two-year term and are seeking replacements. The success enjoyed by this pillar is due both to the outstanding leadership efforts of Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy and Rev. Susan Beth Pinkerton, as well as from the unwavering commitment of a group of dedicated and regular meeting attendees.

This was the first year that the seasonal task forces were ‘replaced’ with what we are calling the Liturgy Planning Team. Made up of our clergy, the pillar chairs, and interested parishioners, the LPT meets monthly to plan the services, season by season, just as the task forces did. Instead of a different ‘cast of characters’ for each season, however, our regular membership consists of Megan Courtney, Jeff Kempskie, Raiford Gaffney, Randy Marks, Jim Steed, John Terry, Tuii Kera and Nat White. Our new and very active members include Suella Henn who joined us last summer, Michelle Rivard, who initially came for one season and stayed, and our newest members Michael Knipe, who has already volunteered to lead the planning for Holy Week, and Maureen Shea who has attended one meeting and agreed to attend another. While we welcome individuals interested in leading and/or working on a particular season, all services, throughout the year are overseen by the LPT.

The Liturgy Planning Team started this church year with an inspirational day-long retreat held July 10th at St. Mark’s. Both clergy and eight of our Team members attended as well as our vestry liaison, Mary Lee Watts, who joined us for part of the day. Guest presenters, Bill Flanders and Sis McKay, offered proposals for special liturgy and music for Epiphany and Lent respectively. In the afternoon, we invited other Pillar chairs for an informal lunch and discussion. Penny Farley, and Bobbi Smith from Christian Ed, and Rick Hayes from Parish Life joined us. We discussed ways to weave together common threads in our Pillar themes. At day’s end, we selected “Looking Forward through Our Heritage” as the liturgical theme for September-June/2010-2011.

Jan and Loretta assisted with the Director of Music Search Committee by interviewing all four candidates including videotaping one of the candidates for Paul to review while he was on vacation. During the interview process, we shared operational information about the Planning Team, and asked each to give feedback/offer suggestions in relation to working with the Planning Team. Key questions and issues were presented in an effort to ensure that hymns match seasonal themes. Responses from all the candidates, especially Jeffrey Kempskie, who was eventually hired, were positive regarding working with the Liturgy Planning Team.

Our new Director of Music, Jeffrey Kempskie, is a young and incredibly talented musician and choir director who, we believe, is an excellent fit for St Mark’s. Since his arrival, he has actively participated in the Liturgy Planning Team meetings offering musical suggestions to complement our seasonal themes. To assist Jeffrey in becoming familiar with the Episcopal lectionary and to suggest specific hymns for each Sunday/season, Jan and Loretta presented Jeffrey with a three-volume resource of Episcopal musical selections as his welcome gift. The choir sounds magnificent under Jeffrey, especially the gifted soloists, and Jeffrey’s preludes and postludes are extraordinary.

Our young choristers participate one Sunday a month (2nd Sunday Family Service) and for special occasions.

Jeffrey Kempskie has replaced Erik Lipscomb as the choir director for our young people, yet continues to invite Erik to participate with the youth musical program as schedules allow.

Loretta represented our Pillar at the Vestry retreat in Rehoboth in November 2010, and reported the worship 'dreams' as well as a presentation on the status of Worship. Loretta (August 2010) and Jan (December 2010) each attended one meeting of the vestry to present Worship reports.

Accomplishments 2010-11

- *Homiletic Theatre, Epiphany 4, Jan 30, 2011*: A four-part homily on the Beatitudes featured Paul, Randy Marks, Loretta Veney and Jan Lipscomb and presented in keeping with our goal of experimenting with new and different types of liturgy.
- *Children's Chapel*: led by Susan Flanders, began January 16th, 2011 at 9am and is attended by children and parents. Several items for CC, including crayons, a cross, candlesticks, an altar cloth, and chairs have been added to the 2011 budget. Rev. Susan Flanders and Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy will rotate presiding over the CC service; strong parental support is anticipated to assist with ongoing development of this new initiative.
- *Art in Advent*: Displayed in the nave during Advent and presented by Betty Foster and David Evelyn, with many extraordinary and beautiful creative works from artists among the St. Mark's congregation.
- *Advent Lessons and Carols*: Jeffrey Kempskie's first Lessons and Carols service was held December 5, 2010. It was a great success and very well attended (approximately 145 congregants, which is three times the number anticipated). Jan Lipscomb served as vergger for the first time.
- *Christmas services*: 4pm pageant led by Nancy Corr (Mother of Mary) and the 10pm festival service featured outstanding music by the choir who assisted with lighting the congregation's candles for 'Silent Night'; beautifully 'greened' and chaired for the second year by Terry Adlhock and Jeffrey Hunter.
- *Epiphany Series* developed by Bill Flanders (with assistance from Nat White, Randy Marks and Paul). Bill's liturgy was used Epiphany 5-9, February 6 through March 6.
- *New service music (Kyrie and Sanctus) for Lent*: provided by Sis McKay including sounds from Rock Creek Park recognizing the environment is being used in coordination with and accompaniment by Jeffrey Kempskie.
- *Family Service 2nd Sunday* of each month extends an invitation and support to families with children in all lay positions (reading, lay serving, etc.) and a 'Children's Reflection'. Children and teens are also being incorporated into 11:15am services as well on Sundays other than the 2nd Sunday.
- *Continue support for 5pm service*: Average attendance is 14-36 weekly. We celebrated our first anniversary November 28, 2010 and marked the occasion with a hearty Eucharist, consisting of a meal during the service fashioned after a Mediterranean seder similar to one Jesus may have shared with his disciples. The exceptional service and meal were attended by 36 parishioners. Volunteers continue to help with music, altar set up, refreshments, and clean up. We have enjoyed flute and saxophone music as well as recorded music as a regular feature. With Susan's departure, we are searching for assistance with preparation of the 5pm liturgy.
- *Laminated baptism service cards* were used four times this year. We believe this is working well and reducing demands on our office staff. We have only lost a few of the original 200 copies.
- *Welcomed new lay volunteers*: recruited a new coordinator (Linda Dickinson for 9am lay servers), a 5pm vergger (Elizabeth Wilcox) an 11:15 beadle (Tim Veney); readers (Fairfield Butt) sound people (Grady Hedgespeth and Michael Knipe), 5pm musicians (Chris Herman – cello, and Gena Photiadis – keyboards).
- *Purchased two book carts for the nave* for the Book of Common Prayer and both hymnals so they are easily accessible for parishioners. These can be found in the Chapel anteroom.

Our Strengths

- Improved recruitment of NEW lay volunteers (new Liturgy Planning Team members, lay servers, beadles, sound operators, and a new lay server coordinator for 9am)

- Passion for our job, exceptional teamwork, and having fun.
- Leadership coordination of schedules including attendance at different services to ensure we stay on the pulse of what is occurring at all services.
- Division of labor between the co-chairs to ease the responsibilities of chairing this important pillar.

Our Greatest Challenges

- Coordination with Baxter House to ensure bulletins are accurate
- service coordinators supplying the correct information for Sunday morning volunteers
- designating a liaison with Baxter House to double-check plans
- too-frequent shortage of bulletins during the last quarter of 2010.
- Ensuring enough 1982 Hymnals and LEVAS are available after multiple activities
- chair and kneeler placement in the Nave remains a scramble before and during services



Parish Life

Chair: Kristi Kubista-Hovis

Reports from sub-group leaders:

Parish Life covers a variety of events and activities. The following reports provide an update on this year's activities.

Caregivers (Linda Ewald, Chair) have responded to numerous requests for visits, prayers, soup, transportation, calls, cards, equipment, etc. We started a support group for parishioners who are caregivers themselves and meets the second and fourth Mondays each month. Susan Pinkerton trained a group of lay people who can take communion to those who cannot come to church [*ed.* Lay Eucharistic Ministers]. The ministry of 'laying on of hands' continues at both services one Sunday a month. We know many of you are quietly caring for loved ones and other members without our help. Keep up the good work!

Literary Lions (Linda Ewald, convener) will choose our 100th book to discuss sometime this summer. We have 30 people on our e-mail list but usually average 6 - 8 at a meeting, so everyone gets a chance to talk. We welcome a new member at almost every meeting. We even have virtual members who read the books but whom we never see.

Celluloid Lions (Alicia Ruble, convener) meets on the 3rd Friday of every month at 1321 Geranium Street, NW, and recently celebrated our 10th Anniversary. Movies screened over the past year include "Some Like It Hot," "The Lives of Others," "Young Frankenstein," "Pillow Talk," "The Grifters," and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." About 8-10 people attend regularly and nearly 20 attended the 10th Anniversary celebration.

Lichfield Link reps, Doris & Jack Burton, traveled to the UK in October, '10. They stayed with Link reps Pat & Brian Emsall, reconnected with a number of St. Mark's supporters, met some of the new Cathedral staff, and attended one of the funeral services for long-time friend and retired Link rep, Dr. Hazel Baker. Because of the generous contribution to Erasmus Darwin House, just off the Close and dear to Hazel, St. Mark's has been made a 'corporate friend' of its Foundation. The most exciting news concerns the *Staffordshire Hoard*, a collection of nearly 800 pieces of Saxon-era gold (jewelry, sword hilts, crosses, etc.), some of which will be displayed in the Cathedral Chapter Room along with the Lichfield Gospels and the Angel, a Saxon carving. More information will be forthcoming. The Herkenrode Glass, brought to Lichfield in the 19th Century from a decommissioned abbey in Belgium, has been removed from the Lady Chapel for the first time since WWII when it was removed for safety. It will be restored and reinstalled. Regular mailings of services and events are posted on the Lichfield bulletin board.

Woman to Woman (Marilu Sherer, convener) had a productive year. The W2W Leadership Team wanted to create simple, fun, and inexpensive events where the women of the parish could get together and enjoy

themselves evidenced by an average attendance of around 70. One popular event is a wine & cheese party at a home. Everyone brings their beverage along with a nibble to share. This being St. Mark's, there is always an abundance of both. Once a year, we offer a class for all women and friends. In 2010 the class was 'Making Time for God in an Already Crowded Schedule'; 2011 'Women, Bodies, and Movement'.

Young Professionals (Laurel Kennedy, convener) is a robust group in our 20's/30's engaged in teaching, outreach, and leadership at St. Mark's. The theme for this year was 'participating in all aspects of parish life'. In addition to our usual "Food for Thought" suppers, the group held a joint potluck with Capitol Hill United Methodist and Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, organized participation in the Maundy Thursday supper, crab feast, Christmas beer bottling, pub lunch, and retreats, talks, and barbeques with other churches in the area.

Third Ageds (Gretchen Willson, Tiiu Kera, and Mimi Chesslin, co-conveners) continued events of interest to parishioners age 60 and older including three potluck luncheons: May, '10 Jack Burton and Rick Hayes led an acting class entitled "Aerobics for the Brain"; Sept., '10 Washington Post Health Care Policy reporter spoke about Health Care Reform legislation; Jan., '11, realtor Phyllis Jane Young addressed 'De-cluttering and Downsizing' homes; Oct., '10, a small group traveled to Surratt House (Maryland) to learn the role Mary Surratt played in the events surrounding the assassination of President Lincoln. To facilitate turnover to the new leadership, we will be staggering terms. Kathy Tatko has already begun her three-year term this year and two other coordinators (to be determined) begin, fall '11.

Pub lunch (Rick Warfield, chair) is alive and well and always in need of new volunteers and ideas to help plan, prepare and serve this weekly offering to our community. We are lucky to have an intrepid bunch of people assisting and, for the past year, Jane Byrne has been our 'chief bottle-washer'. During the year we have high points such as one presented by Vera Oye' Yaa-Anna with a West African theme, delicious food, and accompanied by a group from Togo in their native dress singing their songs to the pub lunch audience delight. The St. Mark's community is diverse and pub lunch provides an opportunity to share this diversity through food and innovative ideas. Food has been served from the Middle East to, from the quantity of lasagna that the pub has served, Italy (a good thing!!). We continue reimbursing \$160 to pub lunch hosts (with receipts). *Coffee hour* (Greg Smith, coordinator) is a bit more irregular but gets good attendance when a volunteer steps up. Ric Weber continues to brew and supply our 'Winged Lion Lager' along with special seasonal beers, and Crane Miller serves as our long-standing treasurer.

The *College of Crustaceans* elected Jack Richards Crab of the Year 2010 at the Annual 4th of July Crab Feast held of July 25.

The *Parish Picnic* brought out nearly 200 attendees on Labor Day Sunday and *Mardi Gras* returned after being snowed out in 2010, with nearly 150 adults and children in attendance.

Parish Historians, Bert & Mary Cooper, initiated a new project: putting the parish register records on computer. While this has just begun, when completed it will make researching a faster and easier task while preserving these historic documents.

Peter Hawley (*library*), George Meng (*e-group*, 271 members), Bob Ewald (*27 Answering Angels*) continue their work; The Gospel has been suspended pending going on-line later this spring (see Task force reports).

