



St. Mark's
+
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting
&
Report to the Parish
April 1, 2014—March 1, 2015

March 15, 2015

St. Mark's Press
5th edition

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill , 2014-15

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CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

March 15, 2015

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

Jane Byrne, Thia Hamilton, Doug Jackson, Frank Lloyd, Joe Tarantolo, Christina White, Karen Weideman

†

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

Bill Dickinson

†

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

Peter Sherer, Margaret Wood

†

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

Doris Muller-Burton

+

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Grady Hedgespeth, *Senior Warden* Michael Summey *Junior Warden*

Amy Kovac-Ashley, Pamela Lacey-Bradshaw, Jim Steed, *Members of the Vestry*

Mary Eillison, George Meng, *Members of the Parish*

The Rev. Justi Schunior, *ex officio*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2015

10 am Holy Eucharist

11: 15 am Lunch *provided by the vestry*

11:30 am Annual Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order **Grady B Hedgespeth, Senior Warden**

Opening Prayer **The Rev. R. Justi Schunior, Priest-in- Charge**

Approval of the Minutes, 2014 Annual Meeting

Reflections on change **Priest- in-Charge**

A few words on our finances **Penny Hansen, Treasurer**

Proposed Bylaw Amendment..... **Membership Committee**

Discussion

Vote

Elections:

1. Vestry

Nominations

Candidate remarks followed by Q&A and the vote

2. Senior Warden

Nominations and Candidate remarks

Vote

3. Vestry 2nd ballot (as necessary)

Report of the Candidates remaining

Vote

4. Junior Warden

Nominations and the vote

Candidate remarks

5. Vestry 3rd ballot (as necessary)

Report of the Candidates remaining

Vote

6. Diocesan Delegate

Nominations

Candidate remarks followed by Q&A and the vote

Acknowledgements **Senior Warden**

Election Results **Senior Warden**

Adjournment

Closing Prayer **The Rev. R. Justi Schunior, Priest-in-Charge**

BY-LAWS
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH +CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Article I Members

101. Members Every person above fifteen years of age is a member of St. Mark's Parish (the Parish) for purposes of an election and has the right to vote in an election if:

1. The books of the Parish record that person's name as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church at least one month before the date of the election, and
2. that person has made a pledge toward the support of the Parish for the calendar year in which the election is held.

Article II Parish Meetings

201. Annual Meetings The Members of the Parish will hold Annual Meetings on the weekend of the second, third, or fourth Sunday of Lent. At the Annual Meeting of the Parish the members voting must elect the Wardens, Members of the Vestry and a Lay Delegate by written ballot, and will transact such other business as properly comes before them.

202. Notice of Annual Meeting The Rector must give notice of the annual meeting at least one month before the day of the meeting by notice posted on the church bulletin board, in the worship bulletin, and on the parish website. In the Rector's absence or failure to act, the Senior Warden must give the notice.

203. Quorum Twenty percent (20%) or more of the members of the Parish constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members of the Parish. If there is no quorum at the meeting, the members present must adjourn. The Rector (or Senior Warden, as appropriate) must give at least ten days notice of the reconvening of the adjourned meeting as required in Section 202.

204. Presiding Officer and Secretary The Rector, or in the Rector's absence or failure to act, the Senior Warden, will call to order and preside at the Annual Meeting. The Register will be the Secretary of the meeting. If the Register is not available, then the presiding officer will appoint instead a member of the Parish to serve as Secretary of the meeting. The Secretary of the meeting will (1) upon challenge, assist the Vestry to determine who of those present are members, (2) distribute the minutes of the previous meeting, and (3) take and record the minutes of the meeting, including a record of any votes.

205. Special Meetings A special Parish meeting may be called by the Rector, by a majority of the Vestry, or by petition of (50) voting members of the Parish, with at least ten days notice posted on the bulletin board, in the worship bulletin, and on the Parish website. The notice must state the business that the Parish will consider at the special meeting. No vote may be taken on any business not included previously in the notice.

Article III The Vestry

301. Vestry.

A. In general. The Vestry consists of the Rector, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, and nine Members of the Vestry elected to the Vestry in accordance with section 403. Any priest or deacon who is a full-time salaried employee of the Parish will have a seat on the Vestry, but no vote.

B. Vestry members under 18. Vestry members under the age of 18 may not constitute a majority of the Members of the Vestry, nor may they be included in the computation of a quorum or vote on the acceptance of any contractual obligation of the Vestry.

C. Definition. For purposes of these By-laws, the term "Member of the Vestry" means the nine individuals elected to the Vestry in accordance with Section 403.

302. Vestry Meetings. The Vestry will hold stated meetings not less than once each month from September through June and at other times as the Vestry may determine by resolution. The Rector, the Senior Warden, or one-third of the Members of the Vestry may call Special meetings of the Vestry by delivery of not less

than three days' notice to the Senior and Junior Wardens and to each Member of the Vestry.

303. Vestry Quorum Any four (4) elected Members of the Vestry (including the Wardens) constitute a quorum for the transaction of Vestry business. The act of the majority of the eligible voting Members of the Vestry present at the meeting will be the act of the Vestry.

Article IV Election of Wardens, Members of the Vestry, Lay Delegates, and Officers of the Vestry

401. Eligibility Candidates for the positions of Wardens, members of the Vestry, Officers of the Vestry and Lay Delegates must be members of the Parish. See section 101 of these By-Laws. In addition, candidates for Lay Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be confirmed communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

402. Nominations No later than two months before each Annual Meeting, the Rector (or the Senior Warden in the Rector's absence or failure to act), with the approval of the Vestry, must appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of the Senior and Junior Wardens, all outgoing Members of the Vestry, and at least two members of the Parish who are not Members of the Vestry. The Nominating Committee will place in nomination at the Annual Meeting at least one qualified candidate for each position of Warden, Member of the Vestry, and Lay Delegate open for election. The report of the Nominating Committee listing and identifying the candidates selected by it, together with the voting procedure, must be posted on the church bulletin board and on the Parish website at least one month before each Annual Meeting (and, if feasible, in the church newsletter). At the Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee will make its report, which action will place in nomination the candidates that it selected. Following the report of the Nominating Committee other nominations may be made from the floor.

403. Election of Wardens, Members of the Vestry and Lay Delegates Election of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Members of the Vestry, and a Lay Delegate is by written ballot (unless unopposed) by a simple majority of the members of the Parish voting at the Annual Meeting. The members of the Parish will elect three Members of the Vestry to serve three-year terms at each Annual Meeting, and may fill any vacancy on the Vestry created by the death, resignation, or removal of any Member of the Vestry before the end of that Member's three-year term. The Members of the Parish will also elect one Lay Delegate to the Regional Assembly and the Convention of the Diocese of Washington, to serve a three-year term, and may fill any vacancy of the three Lay Delegates created by the death, resignation, or removal of any Lay Delegate before the end of that Delegate's three- year term.

404 Tenure and Vacancies

A. Wardens. Except as provided in paragraph D.1, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden will hold office for a one-year term, which begins at the end of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected and which extends to the next Annual Meeting. The Wardens may serve two consecutive terms in their respective offices before becoming ineligible to serve in the same office until the lapse of two years after the end of such terms.

B. Vestry. Except as provided in paragraph D.2, Members of the Vestry will hold office for a three-year term, which begins at the end of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected. After a Member of the Vestry serves a three-year term or over one-half of it, that person will not be eligible to be a Member of the Vestry until two years after the end of that three-year term.

C. Lay Delegates. Except as provided in paragraph D.2, Lay Delegates will hold a three-year term, which begins at the end of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected. After a Lay Delegate serves a three-year term or over one-half of it, that person will not be eligible to be a Lay Delegate until two years after the end of that three-year term.

D. Vacancies.

1. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Senior or Junior Warden by death, resignation, or removal of the Warden before the end of the Warden's term, the Vestry may elect a Member of the Vestry to

fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

2. Should vacancies occur on the Vestry or among Lay Delegates by death, resignation, or removal of any Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate before the end of the Member's or Lay Delegate's three- year term, the Vestry may appoint a member of the Parish to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, when the members of the Parish will elect a member or Lay Delegate to fill the vacancy. The newly elected Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate may hold office only for the remainder of the term to which he or she succeeds.

E. Eligibility. No person completing five years' continuous service as a Member of the Vestry or as a Warden, or as both, is eligible to serve on the Vestry or as Junior or Senior Warden for two years. Members of the Vestry are not eligible for election as Warden before they complete their terms as Members of the Vestry or they resign from the Vestry.

405. Election of Register, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Other Vestry Officers, and Alternate Lay Delegates

A. Officers. At the first meeting of the Vestry after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect by simple majority a Register, a Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers, and such other officers of the Vestry as the Vestry deems the Parish needs.

B. Alternate Delegates. At the first Vestry meeting after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect one or more Alternate Lay Delegates to the Regional Assembly and the Convention of the Diocese of Washington. An Alternate Lay Delegate designated by the Vestry assumes the duties and responsibilities of a Lay Delegate when the Lay Delegate is absent.

C. Terms of Office. All Vestry Officers and Alternate Lay Delegates serve one year or until their successors have been elected and begin to serve. A person may serve three consecutive terms in the same office before becoming ineligible to serve in that office for two years. A person completing five years of continuous service in Vestry offices, including that of lay delegate or alternate, becomes ineligible to serve in any Vestry office for two years.

406. Power to Remove The Vestry may remove any officer elected by the Vestry, with the exception of the Clergy, at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the whole Vestry.

Article V Powers, Duties, Obligations, and Rights of Wardens and Vestry.

501. Duties, Obligations, and Rights of Wardens The Senior and Junior Wardens will:

1. serve on the Vestry and generally perform and exercise all duties and obligations as are required by the Vestry these by-laws, the laws of the District of Columbia, the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798, as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington; and

2. have all rights and obligations of Members of the Vestry.

502. Powers of the Vestry.

A. In General. The Vestry has power to do and cause all things to be done that the Parish must do as a corporate body.

B. Specific Powers.

1. Rector. The Vestry has express power to issue calls to the Rectorship of the Parish under the provisions and requirements of the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington. The Vestry may agree and contract with the Rector on such terms and conditions as it deems reasonable and proper. If there is no Rector, the Senior Warden will administer the Parish.

2. Committees. The Vestry will establish committees that it deems desirable and will establish procedures and guidelines governing the selection and tenure of the committee leaders and members.

3. Audit of Parish Books. At its December meeting each year the Vestry will designate either a Certified Public Accountant or any competent person or persons not directly connected with the financial affairs of the Parish and not Member(s) or Officer(s) of the Vestry to audit the Treasurer's books and records for the then current calendar year.

4. Property. The Vestry may sell, alienate, or encumber any real property owned by the Parish only if:

a. the Vestry has the consent of both Wardens, at least four (4) Members of the Vestry, and the Rector, except that if there is no Rector in the Parish, the Vestry must obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Washington; and

b. the Vestry has the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese required in Canon 6 of the Episcopal Church and Canon 29 of the Diocese of Washington.

503. Duties of the Vestry The Senior and Junior Wardens and Members of the Vestry serve on the Vestry and perform and exercise all duties and obligations as are, or may be, required by these By-Laws, the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798 as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington. Their duties include:

1. act as judges at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, including deciding any issue concerning the inclusion or omission of any person on the list of qualified voters,

2. manage, control, and direct, with power to sell, alienate, encumber, or transfer all property of the Parish as provided in section 502;

3. elect a Rector, Assisting Clergy, Register, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers, Alternate Lay Delegates, and other officers that the Vestry needs.

4. provide necessary books and records for the Register, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers.

5. file before March 1 of each year with the District of Columbia Government a report showing the purposes for which the tax exempt property of the Parish was used during the preceding year;

6. make rules and regulations for the government and support of the Parish;

7. exercise the powers of a corporation and body politic as prescribed by the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798, as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the laws of the District of Columbia; and

8. sue and be sued on matters involving the Parish.

504. Duties of the Register The Register shall:

1. act as a secretary to the Vestry and at the Annual or special parish meetings; and

2. generally act and perform by the provisions of the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal church and the Diocese of Washington relating to clerks and secretaries of Vestries and by the laws of the District of Columbia.

505. Duties of the Treasurer

A. Treasurer. The Treasurer will:

1. act under the supervision of the Vestry;

2. except as otherwise directed by the Vestry, have charge and custody of all the monies and valuables of the Parish;

3. be responsible for the keeping of accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and financial transactions of the Parish; and

4. in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as the Vestry may assign to the Treasurer.

B. Vacancy. In the absence of the Treasurer, or the Treasurer's inability or failure to act, the Treasurer's duties will be performed by an Assistant Treasurer that the Vestry will designate after consultation with the Treasurer.

C. Bond. The Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer designated by the Vestry under subsection B must furnish a corporate bond or surety in an amount that the Vestry will determine. The cost of the bond or surety will be paid by the Diocese of Washington, or, if not, by the Vestry.

Article VI Rector

601. Duties. In matters concerning the duties of Rectors or Ministers, the dissolution of pastoral relations, and the filling of vacant cures, the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington govern the Rector and the Vestry of the Parish.

Article VII Amendments

701. Procedures. The members of the Parish may amend, modify, or repeal these By-Laws by vote of two-thirds of the members of the Parish voting at any Annual Meeting of the Parish, provided, that the Vestry gives notice of the proposed amendment, modification, or repeals by posting the proposed amendment, modification, or repeal on the Parish bulletin board and on the Parish website at least one month before the Annual Meeting.

702. Effect These By-Laws have full force and effect when the members of the Parish adopt and replace the current By-Laws and supersede any By-Laws of the Parish that may be in effect before the members adopt these By-Laws.

Last amended: April 19, 2009

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS DEFINITION OF "MEMBER", approved by the Vestry for submission to the Parish, January 25, 2015

The Bylaws of St. Mark's currently define a member in Article I:

Article I Members

101. Members Every person above fifteen years of age is a member of

St. Mark's Parish (the Parish) for purposes of an election and has the right to vote in an election if:

1. The books of the Parish record that person's name as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church at least one month before the date of the election, and
2. that person has made a pledge toward the support of the Parish for the calendar year in which the election is held.

Proposal: We offer the following amendment to the Parish Bylaws and request this amendment be placed before the membership on March 15, 2015.

Resolved: that Article I, Section 101 be revised to read:

101. Definition of Membership: Every person above fifteen years of age is a member of St. Mark's Parish for purposes of an election and has the right to vote if, **at some time, in the 12 months preceding an election, that person has made a financial contribution to the Parish AND (a) been recorded in the register of the Parish as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States OR (b) affirmed her/his wish to be a member in a manner as determined by the Vestry of the Parish.**

We request this amendment take effect thirty days after the March 15, 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

Note: This definition has no bearing on par. 401 (candidates for diocesan delegates *must be* confirmed communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church). Furthermore: within three months, the Membership Committee will return to the Vestry with a proposal for defining methods of affirming one's membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Burton and Mary Thuell,
Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 30, 2014 ANNUAL MEETING
DRAFT – for approval at the 2015 Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was called to order by the rector, Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, who offered the opening prayer.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The rector announced that a quorum was present, with 155 registered voters in attendance.

RECTOR'S REMARKS: The rector offered a tribute to and his thanks to the staff after which he reflected on his 16-year tenure as rector, including the difficulties of change. For the remainder of his time at St. Mark's, he said, he would continue to love his parishioners; be a bridge bearing witness to the past and those who served before; and, be a mirror of communal values.

VISION 2020 UPDATE: Michael Townsend reviewed the history of the Vision 2020 project and responded to questions. He indicated that moving into the renovated space would begin around August 1 and that the new space was expected to be fully functional by September 1. Bishop Budde will be present on September 28 to dedicate the new building.

He indicated that the available funds are holding up well so far, with \$2.93 million raised from the congregation, and \$500,000 borrowed from the Endowment Fund. These funds, combined with the proceeds from the sale of Baxter House, total \$5.5 million available for the project. He noted that we will soon need to start using the line of credit established at National Capital Bank and urged members to pay their pledges as soon as possible to reduce the amount that has to be borrowed.

He thanked the Green Lions for their input into the process of making the new structure more environmentally friendly and efficient and noted that Monarc is using sustainable products and high efficiency appliances. He also offered special thanks to the Steering Committee and the staff for their hard work and also to the 250 pledgers who have supported the campaign.

REMARKS BY THE SENIOR WARDEN AND TREASURER: Senior Warden Grady Hedgespeth and Treasurer Penny Hansen reported that the parish has been very generous. 92% of the income to support the parish budget comes from pledgers. The new space is expected to bring in some funds when it is fully operational, but there is still a budget deficit projected at \$20,000. In the past, reserve funds have been tapped to cover deficits. In 2015, everyone will be asked to increase pledges by 10%. The parish will have to pay back the loan for the new space and provide additional funds to support the new three-story building. There will be additional costs related to the search for a new rector. They offered thanks to Michael Townsend, who will chair the 2015 Canvass.

2014 CANVASS: Co-Chair Janet Vail reported that \$770,000 has been raised from 315 pledges, with many making significant increases. A few more pledges are anticipated.

ELECTION OF PARISH LEADERSHIP: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Vestry member Charlotte Murray announced that the names of Andrew Stafford and Joseph Tarantolo should be deleted as candidates for Vestry. Joseph Tarantolo's name should have been listed as a candidate for Diocesan Delegate.

ELECTION OF SENIOR WARDEN: Grady Hedgespeth was re-elected by acclamation, with no nominations from the floor. In accepting his election, he said that the hope is to have a new rector in place in September 2015. He paid tribute to the pillar leadership.

ELECTION OF JUNIOR WARDEN: Michael Summey was re-elected by acclamation, with no nominations from the floor. In accepting his election, he noted that the job of Junior Warden has a steep learning curve. He paid tribute to former Junior Wardens Burton, Richards, Sedgewick, and Guire as well as Maintenance Contractor Ed Green and retiring Manciple Charlie Rupp.

ELECTION OF VESTRY: The Nominating Committee submitted the names Steve Dalzell, Chuck Divine, Fritz Henn and Martha Huizenga to compete for three Vestry positions. There were no nominations from the floor. Each candidate was given the opportunity to address two questions provided by the Nominating Committee. Votes were cast by paper ballot.

COMMENTS BY SENIOR WARDEN: While the votes for Vestry positions were being counted, Senior Warden Hedgespeth addressed several issues. He announced that he was retiring from his position as a Diocesan Delegate and requested that the congregation elect another delegate to fill his unexpired partial term. He proposed that Randy Marks replace him.

He also noted that it takes at least a year for a new warden to learn the job, and then there is only a year left to do it. Thus, he indicated that he was likely to propose at an upcoming parish meeting that the Senior Warden's term in the future be changed to a two-year term with the opportunity for one re-election. The current by-laws call for a one-year term with one possible re-election. Senior Warden Hedgespeth expressed the belief that more institutional memory and continuity is in the best interest of the parish.

ELECTION OF DIOCESAN DELEGATES: Joseph Tarantolo was elected to fill a full term as Diocesan Delegate and Randy Marks was elected to fill the balance of the term from which Senior Warden Hedgespeth retired.

RESULTS OF VESTRY ELECTION: The Nominating Committee announced that the three open Vestry positions would be held by Steve Dalzell, Fritz Henn, and Martha Huizenga.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION: The Senior Warden expressed his appreciation to retiring Vestry members Janet Vail, Charlotte Murray, and Fritz Henn (who was re-elected for a full term after serving the last year of Grady Hedgespeth's term) and also to Chuck Divine for his many contributions to the parish.

The Senior Warden announced that the new Vestry would meet immediately after the conclusion of the meeting to elect officers, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper
Register (2011-2014)



*The parish banner...designed by
Jacquie Binns, noted liturgical
fabric artist in England and given
(1988) in memory of Georgia
Jackson*

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, the 11th Rector of St. Mark's, retired eff. Jan 25, 2015.

The Associate Rector was made Priest-in-Charge at the January, 2015 Vestry Meeting.

THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Rev. Rebecca Justice Schunior

Friends,

This coming July, I will have been with you as Associate Rector for four years. During this time we have raised money for a new building; the staff has spent a year and a half in temporary office space in trailers before moving into our wonderful new office space; and our beloved rector of almost seventeen years has retired.

After Paul's retirement, I was named Priest-in-Charge and over the next couple of months I hope to work with our lay leadership and staff to maintain our commitment to creative liturgy, excellent preaching, and service to our community. An interim rector will join us some time after Easter and I am confident that the Discernment and Search Committee is on track to call a new rector in early 2016.

The following is a brief summary of my work here in the past year:

- **Worship & Preaching**

I take the lead in planning, scheduling, and organizing liturgy and preachers for our services. Every month, I meet with our Liturgy and Planning Team to map out the coming season. Every month, we look to bring in a variety of voices and styles of worship. Including laity in our preaching rota as well as bringing in new voices to the pulpit is part of what makes St. Mark's special. It is my privilege to work with our liturgy planning team and others to plan and schedule the themes and preachers for particular seasons.

This past August we had a preaching series focused on "Spiritual Practices" featuring our senior warden, Grady Hedgespeth; head verger, David Deutsch; spiritual director Suella Henn; and our seminarian, Emily Williams Guffey.

For the final weeks of the Rev. Paul Abernathy's time with us as rector, a committee gathered to plan the liturgies that would honor his legacy. The season of Epiphany featured language written by Paul and highlighted his attention to love and justice. It was a humbling experience to preach the sermon at Paul's final service with us on January 25th.

The 5 pm service continues to grow and I am so pleased that two candidates for vestry are 5 pm congregants. I hope that those of us who are unfamiliar with the congregation will visit the service and meet some of those who have taken an active role in leadership.

Between now and when our interim rector begins, I have contracted with the Rev. Josh Thomas to serve as an ongoing supply priest. He will be preaching and presiding at services throughout March and April. He also was our priest at "Ashes to Go", the third year we have offered ashes at Capitol South Metro. I also hope that he, along with members of our Liturgy Planning Team, will contribute to a conversation about how St. Mark's can be present as a church in the world on days other than Ash Wednesday. So far we have discussed outdoor Eucharists in Lincoln Park or Union Station, Good Friday Stations of the Cross throughout our neighborhood, and more public Blessing of the Animals. I welcome any and all of you to join the conversation.

- **Teaching**

Last spring I taught LCF with Bill Jordan, Elin Whitney-Smith, and David Super. One of those class members is now running for vestry, another is on the Discernment and Search Committee, and still another is a leader of the Outreach Board. This spring I will be working with the youth confirmation leadership team and meeting with the ten young people who might choose to be confirmed in May.

- **Parish Life**

This past year I provided the adult content at our annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont. Sixty-one parishioners attended and we discussed transition to a new rector as well as the *Renewal Works Program* at our Saturday sessions.

Together with our Director of Music, Jeff Kempeskie, I began a new parish life event, “Beer and Hymns” and “Cocktails and Carols”. These are simple gatherings in our Nave with light food and beverages and an opportunity to sing our favorite church music. This has been an easy and excellent venue for meeting new people and enjoying fellowship. Our next “Beer and Hymns” will be June 10.

- **Pastoral Care**

This is an area where we might very well fall short in the time of transition. I care deeply about meeting and speaking with those who are in any kind of pain. I encourage you to contact the office if you need support. Besides me as clergy there are dedicated parishioners who help provide meals, offer rides, listen, and generally dedicate themselves to those in need.

I am currently meeting with two couples who are preparing for marriage. There have been five funerals over the past year for which I have provided support and pastoral care.

- **Youth**

This year, as well as seeing the retirement of our beloved rector, we also lost our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Marcella Gillis. I have been delighted to keep in touch with her as she moves through her first year at Yale Divinity School. I have also been privileged to serve as co-chair on the committee to re-envision the next DYFM. Together with vestry member Steve Dalzell and others, we took the time between Marcella’s resignation and our next call to dream and envision a staff member who can be strategic in his/her efforts to incorporate youth into our parish life. The work of several months is now in the hands of a search committee who are, even now, working through resumes and job applicants to find a true leader who will help us prioritize youth and families in our common life.

- **Newcomers**

I am pleased to report that a Membership Committee has formed and is active in greeting new people and inviting them into our communal life. Mary Thuell is the current chair.

- **Outreach**

I continue as a member of the Outreach Board. While I am not able to attend all monthly meetings because of my advisory committee meetings and parish life events, I help recruit leadership and provide a sounding board for issues the board encounters. I regularly attend Capitol Hill Group Ministry clergy meetings, preach at the Church of Epiphany’s “Street Church”, and meet with the leadership of Samaritan Ministry.

This year I was pleased to represent Episcopal clergy as the faith community worked to prohibit places of worship from areas where DC citizens can lawfully carry a firearm.

- **Communications**

Parish Administrator Angela Nedd and I have been working to improve parish communications. This is an ongoing project. Together, we have improved our weekly newsletter by synchronizing it with social media and adding quick e-blasts for important church and pastoral news. I have also been working with Angela to update specific areas of the website. I expect that an extensive website update will be necessary within the next year or so. If you have interest or expertise in website development or management, we would love to hear from you.

Despite all of these successes, and in fact, in some ways because of them, this a particularly challenging time for clergy, staff, and congregants. I look forward to the coming year, but also welcome your thoughts, energy, and creativity for nurturing this community as we face new challenges and opportunities.

TABLES REFLECTING MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

YEAR	PLEDGE UNITS	PLEDGES: ADULTS	CHILDREN/ PLEDGING MEMBERS ¹	VISITORS (INCL. CHILDREN)	AVE. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	BAPTIZED MEMBERS ²	COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING ³
2008 ⁴						830	
2009	362	534	137	233	291	+31/-5	654
2010	379	559	142	399	284	+28/-2	676
2011	390	572	143	227	319	+27/-7	715
2012	345	513	145	160	296	+22/-25 =899	720 (575A/145Y)
2013	335	494	109	76	287	+36/-15	740
2104	331	483	103	135	269	+21/-2 =939	759 (582A/177Y)

¹Age 18/younger

²Recorded in the official Parish Register via Baptism, Confirmation, or Letter of Transfer.

³All baptized members who contribute time, talent, and money to support the life and mission of our community.

⁴Included as a baseline

⁵Plus numbers reflect Baptisms, confirmations, reception (*from* another congregation);
minus numbers reflect deaths or transfer *to* another congregation

⁶Adults/Youth

YEAR	SUNDAY EUCHARIST	WEEKDAY EUCHARIST	PRIVATE EUCHA- RIST	MARRIAGE	BURIALS
2009	104	21	16	4	2
2010	144 ⁷	42	8	5	4
2011	141	58	9	9	5
2012	145	54	8	9	1
2013	133	54	0	10	8
2104	140	60	2	9	8

⁷Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jeff Kempskie

The music program had another successful year. The Chancel Choir now has a regular tenor section leader which has been an enormous help and has allowed the group to sound its best. The Handbell Choir and Boys & Girls Choir have both continued to develop and improve in numerous ways. And all this despite the wonderful though disruptive construction project! Among many other things, the choral music library and Music Director's office had to be packed up, moved, and unpacked again, which was a huge project in and of itself. Many thanks to Kathryn Powers, Martha Connor Donnelly, and the other volunteers who helped.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir remains healthy. The most significant thing for the group has been the regular presence of tenor section leader Adam Caughey since March of 2014. Adam's singing in the group has had a very positive effect on both the tenors as well as the entire group as a whole. The choir once again sang Paul Winter's *Earth Mass* last spring, for special services including the dedication in September, the well-attended December Advent Lessons & Carols service and the February Evensong service.

Boys & Girls Choir

The Boys & Girls Choir continues to develop and grow under the leadership of volunteer director Nadine Hathaway. The choir started off the current season with its fourth annual choir retreat in early September which included rehearsals coupled with a variety of fun activities. The group continues to memorize its music and has been singing at the 9:00 service 1-2 times per month. Two children attended the Royal School of Church Music summer camp, had a fabulous experience, and have brought what they learned back with them to the Boys & Girls Choir.

The choir also performed in the dedication service.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir made leaps and bounds last spring, playing three times including Easter. The group also played twice during Advent and is currently preparing music for Easter and beyond. We have been working on better-establishing the rehearsal schedule and other ways we want to operate. With the turnover of at least a couple people each season, the group is also exploring various ways of recruiting more people and trying to get some young people involved.

Instruments

The Holtkamp organ remains in fairly good working order. With my office moved closer to the rest of the staff, I purchased a new Yamaha digital piano so that I may have greater control of the volume and use headphones when needed. We gave away the Wurlitzer piano that used to be in my office. The church recently accepted the donation of a 10-year old, 6'1" Kohler & Campbell player grand piano. This is an excellent piano which is now in the music studio. The Cable Nelson spinet piano that was in Baxter Hall was also given away and the upright Yamaha from the music studio is now located there.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Pam Lacey, Volunteer Manager

Kudos to all who have volunteered to make our youth events a rousing success both while Marcella Gillis was our staff Youth & Family Minister and after Marcella left in August to attend Yale Seminary. In September, as Vestry liaisons, Steve Dalzell and Pam embarked on a path to keep the usual YFM programs running while envisioning how we want to help our children and teens grow spiritually.

Pam was charged with maintaining the program while Steve and his team led a discernment process and sought input from the parish. That discernment team developed a job posting, is reviewing twenty applications, and on track to call a Youth and Family Minister this spring.

Thanks to all who volunteered to assist the program and all who took 'Safeguarding God's Children' or updated their training. We are well on the way to achieving our goal of a sustainable, robust and thriving program, supported by a deep bench of volunteers, to hand off.

We were able to provide these activities throughout the year:

- **Mardi Gras Fundraiser for Teen Service Trip** – Marcella Gillis, teens, parents of teens (Mar)
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – Marcella Gillis and parents (Apr)
- **Parish Retreat Weekend, Shrine Mont**– Marcella Gillis and parents (June)
- **Teen Service Trip to New Orleans** - Marcella Gillis and parents (July)
- **Play/pool parties** for elementary boys and girls – Pam Lacey/Deanna Garner (Aug)
- **Labor Day Parish Picnic & Games** in Garfield Park – Team (Sept)
- **Outreach project** support unaccompanied immigrant minors settled in our area - Funds went to CAIR (provides legal aid to immigrants locally) – Julie Murphy & Team (Sept)
- **Sunday School Open House & Registration** (Sept)
- **Sunday School Classes** began Sunday October 6
- **Youth Program Volunteers acknowledged** Oct. 19
- **Laser Tag & Pizza Party** (upper elementary & middle school kids – Pam Lacey & parents (Oct)
- **Teen Lock-in** spooky Halloween theme & "Murder in the Dark" Supervised by 20s and 30s: Marlan Green, Rev. Justi Schunior, Caitie Whelan, Andrew Baisch, Fay Johnson, Jenica Wright, Jessie Babcock (Oct 24)
- **November Laser Tag Party** for all ages-Pam Lacey (Nov)
- **Planning for Teen Service Trip**- Linda Staheli, Leslie Allen (June)
- **Christmas Pageant** organized by Parents of the Holy Family - Cecilia Monahan, Elizabeth Bell Townsend, Phil Guire (Dec)
- **YFM Ski Trip** to Timberline, Canaan Valley, West Virginia: 18 adults, 19 children and teens) – Pam Lacey, Frank Lloyd, Bill Monahan (Jan)
- **Hosting** 26 students from St. John's Anglican Church in Capetown, South Africa, dinner in Baxter Hall and a performance of Langston Hughes' 'Black Nativity' at the Anacostia Playhouse, In cooperation with the diocese's Southern Africa Partnership Committee (Jan)

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Grady B. Hedgespeth

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in so many different ways to sustain us and to support each other as a faith community. And a special thank you to our staff who have endured and triumphed to keep us going through the construction. And, I would be most remiss if I did not offer a special thanks to our brother, Paul. His personal support of me in this year of change and challenge was priceless.

As I look back on 2014, we have so much to celebrate! Here are the highlights for me:

- Two Vestry retreats that allowed me to push us not just to be a “board of directors,” but to recognize the ministry aspect of serving as elected lay leadership for a community of faith.
- The calling of a Discernment and Search Committee reflective of our time, sensitive to the importance of their task, and led by two people with great integrity and judgment. From day one they have worked diligently and tirelessly to match the gravity of their charge.
- Our Picnic in the Park to welcome us back from Summer.
- The *RenewalWorks* project, for what it told us about ourselves, for how it brought the DSC headlong into the process of discerning who and what we are and, more importantly, who we want to be. It challenged all of us in ways that prepare us for the changes ahead.
- The dedication of our new space by our Bishop, Marion Egger Budde. It was a glorious day and a glorious celebration.
- The shakedown cruise we all went through, and continue to go through in the first months of living into our Vision 2020 and what it will mean for living in community going forward--new space, new systems, new procedures, better coffee and a chance to reinvigorate ourselves in our lives together.
- An incredible and perhaps model Fall LCF class that set the bar for what this important entry point into our community can mean at its best.
- A glorious Advent celebration marked by a stunning new take on the greening of the nave. Especially the impressive feat achieved by our younger parishioners in lighting the high altar.
- And finally, to the incredibly inspiring and challenging words our 11th rector, the Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy left us in the sermons leading up to his glorious last Sunday with us.

So as we live into 2015 with so many uncertainties and challenges facing us: the ongoing cost of our new space; who's going to be our interim rector? can we find a youth minister who will truly meet our needs: and finally, who will we call to lead us into the future?

The Town Halls this month made clear that who we call has great implications for us on many, many levels. I leave confident in the Vestry members who will continue in their posts, and, judging from the quality of the candidates standing for election, I believe they will show that they are up to the tasks ahead, whether elected or not.

In my last sermon, I said what a pleasure and privilege it is been to serve as your Senior Warden these past two years. It has been especially rewarding to serve with such a capable group of Vestry members and officers. I want to thank the staff for their ongoing support of my ministry in this position and all that they do for us. And I especially want to give a shout out of much love and great respect for Priest –in-Charge, Justi Schunior. She will be such a gift of calm and continuity in the choppy waters ahead.

Peace, Love, and Faith to one and all,
Grady

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Michael Summey

The last year has been a little busy! In addition to having responsibility for the normal activities of the building like seeing that problems are fixed and bills are paid, I was also working on the transition of Vision 2020 from a construction project to a living, breathing operation. Most of the nuts and bolts of this work was done in conjunction with the Transition Committee that was headed by Jack Burton. Thanks to the team of the two Jacks (Burton and Richards), Charlie Rupp, Phil Guire, Bobbi Smith, and Janice Gregory for making this process as seamless as possible.

One of the questions that always seems to come up is, how do we best use this wonderful space that we now have? To that end, I have worked on reformulating the space rental policies/rates and on the actual usage of the space. The Space Use Board was established and has been meeting and trying to come up with a plan to best utilize our space. The first part of our work will be to interview our current internal space users and once we get a feel for what we have and what we can offer, we want to speak to other groups in the greater Capitol Hill area. I couldn't do this work without the help of Sally Garr-Brodhead, Rob Hall, Maureen Shea, Michael Knipe, and our newest member, Phyllis Jane Young. Cecilia Monahan was initially part of the group, but left us to work on finding another rector!

Overseeing a facility of this size is not a one-person job. I would like to thank Kenn Allen and the Vision 2020 Steering Committee for recommending the reconstitution of the Fabric Committee and thanks to Nora Howell and Jack Burton for co-chairing the committee. I look forward to continuing our work together as a member of Fabric.

When I was approached by Cecilia Monahan and Grady Hedgespeth two years ago, I had some idea of what I was taking on, but there was so much more than I expected. While it has been time-consuming and overwhelming at times, it has truly been an honor to serve the Church during such an important time.

I would first and foremost like to thank my family especially Ruth for her patience and understanding and for lending me her ear at times to let me vent. I couldn't have done anything without the support of the Clergy and staff. The band of brothers and sisters of former junior wardens and manacles that have been there to support me in this role is too long to name, but please know that I have appreciated every helping hand or piece of advice along the way.

I would like to close by wishing all the best to our next Junior Warden in his or her new role. I don't plan on going anywhere and I am available to help as much as you would like me to. I just ask the Church to support them like you supported me over the last two years.

Yours in Christ,
Michael

The following committees operate under the leadership of the Junior Warden

Fabric Committee: Nora Howell and Jack Burton (Manciple), Co-chairs

Our charter states "The long-term care of the physical property of St. Mark's is a major ongoing concern for our community. Canon law states that finance and care of church property are the two expressly stated responsibilities of the parish Vestry. The Fabric Committee on Building and Facilities is established to provide permanent recognition of this responsibility and to coordinate both project-oriented and long-term efforts to implement physical improvements to parish buildings and facilities."

In 2010, the parish started visioning what we wanted from our physical plant in this new century. Challenged by too few meeting spaces, historic facades, Baxter House needing expensive repairs along with limits of what we could do to that building, and ADA requirements, we pressed forward to dream big dreams.

Then, through the boundless devotion of the Vision 2020 Steering Committee who oversaw the construction, and the Transition Committee, who handled moving out and back in, many of our dreams came true.

Knowing that the care of our property requires more than one person can manage, the Vestry re-established the Fabric Committee, August 2014. The committee began meeting shortly after we moved into our new space. Effective January 31, 2015, Steering officially handed the reins to the Junior Warden and, in turn the Fabric Committee was charged with keeping faith with the vision. A heavy charge indeed!

Fabric Committee Focus Areas for 2015-16

Renewal of contract with Green's Maintenance Now that we are living in our renovated spaces with the expectations of expanded use, the contract with Green's Maintenance must be updated, at least for a short term. At the same time, we are studying those needs and a number of other factors to ensure that, long-term, the most appropriate arrangement is established.

Projects planned Although the parish house expansion has been beautifully achieved, parts of our physical plant still require attention. We are investigating these areas to prioritize necessary work:

- Inspect stained glass windows, wood trim, and soffits. Determine urgent needs for repair of deteriorating trim, get recommendation re replacing Lexan covers, and obtain an estimate.
- Exterior Wood: Survey the nave exterior doors, roof eaves and soffits to determine necessary repairs. Paint exterior trim.
- Inspect understructure of deteriorating terrazzo and define repairs needed. Repair floor in nave and chancel (terrazzo, altar steps)
- Assess/re-buff/repair nave floor
- Leak in nave roof: Inspect roof, guttering, and downspout system.
- Work with DC WASA and council to increase water pressure coming to the building
- Inspect all bricks of physical plant/grounds for potential re-pointing and/or repairing
- Windows and doors in nave and undercroft: ensure all are properly caulked.
- Repair sunken/hazardous drain in the sidewalk at top of undercroft stairs leading to the Library.

Some actions are a part of the regular upkeep and are executed by the Junior Warden. Others (like the terrazzo repair), is a large stand-alone project, so a member of the Fabric Committee will lead and coordinate with the Junior Warden.

- Assess and transition to environmentally friendly cleaning products: research cleaning products and identified those environmentally friendly. *Christina Herman*
- Established a Kitchen Cabinet charged with the creation of a detailed and user-friendly Kitchen Manual. Their efforts have already yielded results. *Susan Sedgewick, Doris Burton*
- new and comprehensive security protocols have been developed and will be clearly communicated to the parish and take effect, April 2015. *Charlie Rupp*

The Fabric Committee is particularly grateful to Kenn Allen for continuing to work with Monarc Construction on issues that have arisen since the move back. Two frozen pipes burst, one damaging the ceiling of the Adams Room and ruining the new carpet and another affecting the Elders' room, and small leaks resulting from the significant rain, ice and snow we have had this winter plagued us. Kenn has continued to work as a liaison with Monarc to see to these repairs and other adjustments as we learn to live into our new space.

The leaders and members of the Fabric Committee are deeply mindful of our responsibilities to the parish to "live into the vision," and will work diligently to justify the trust placed in us.

Jack Burton	Co-Chair: JW, '03-'04, Manciple, '06-'07, Transition Co-Chair. Manciple, '14-'15
Nora Howell	Co-Chair, Vestry, '13-'16, Rep to V2020
Michael Summey	JW, '13-'15
Phil Guire	JW, '11-'13, Transition Co-Chair
Jack Richards	JW, '08-'89, Manciple, '07-08
Charlie Rupp	JW, '90-'92, Manciple, '12-'14, Transition Team
Pete Eveleth	JW, '80-'82
Fritz Henn	Vestry, '14-'17, Rep to V2020; Rain Garden
Kenn Allen	Co-Chair, Vision 2020
Christina Herman	Green Lions
Ben Schaibly	Garden
Susan Sedgewick	Junior Warden's Assistant, '09-'11
Rick Warfield	Kitchen
Andy Wenchal	Architect

Space Use Committee *see Junior Warden's Report*

Garden *inactive; chair needed*

Green Lions *Pamela Blumgart and Christina Herman, co-conveners*

Members Leslie Allen, Betsy Agle, Collie Agle, Pamela Blumgart, Christina Herman, Pam Lacey, Sis McKay, Jane Rutherford, Rick Rutherford, The Reverend Justi Schunior

The Green Lions are in their third year of activity, having been revived in late 2012 by a group interested in spurring St. Mark's efforts to become better environmental stewards. In 2015, we look forward to expanding our efforts from a focus on building-related issues to some community activities. We meet regularly on the second Sunday of the month at 12:30 in the Rectors' Room.

The main goals are to:

- Educate and inspire our community to act in ways that sustain God's creation.
- Encourage St. Mark's to model wise use of the Earth's resources to support a world in which all can thrive.

Over the past year, the Green Lions...

- Developed a policy for using non-toxic cleaning products, identified appropriate products and cost-competitive sources, ordered some products, and coordinated with maintenance contractor for their use.
- Joined the Fabric Committee to present sustainability concerns re: operation and maintenance of our buildings.
- Serve as a resource to Vision 2020 on sustainability practices and alternatives, with particular attention to the solar installation on the parish house roof.
- Contributed green tips to the church bulletin suggesting things we can all do to save resources in our daily lives.
- Given a short course in May centered on *The Green Boat* by Mary Pipher at the Anacostia Watershed Society.

Columbarium *This report is a brief background. A full report on the columbarium will appear in the 2015 report.*

The original columbarium, designed by Junior Warden Jack Stevens ('74-'76) was begun in 1975 on the west wall of the chancel. It provided 75 niches and was nearly fully subscribed by the early '90s. Vestry member Ron Kolonowski then designed a second columbarium for the wall below the Tiffany window but the Vestry rejected the location and chose, instead, the south wall of what had been the Chapel of the Nazarene

(consecrated, '30) then re-dedicated as the Myrth Library ('80) in honor of the woman who had preserved most of our early history.

With drawings by Bell Architects, Junior Warden Jack Burton ('03-'05) initiated an engineering study to be sure the floor could support the weight of the unit. Funding was through a loan from the Hoitsma Fund with provisions for repayment as units were sold. The library was then moved to its present location in the undercroft.

Under Junior Warden Charley Donnelly ('05-'07) the new columbarium was finally installed. Junior Warden Jim Michael ('07-'08) improved the space with lighting and the cleaning of the terracotta. Additional furnishings were purchased under the leadership of Penny Hansen (Senior Warden, '03-'05). The space was re-dedicated as The Chapel of the Nazarene by Rev. Abernathy in 2009.

The columbarium was managed by Winnie Mosher (Junior Warden, '97-'99) until her death, May '14, and now by Penny Hansen under the authority of the Junior Warden.

Work being done on the nave windows, 1970's



PARISH FINANCES

TREASURER'S REPORT *Penny Hansen, Treasurer and Andrew Stafford, Assistant Treasurer*

Overview The 2014 parish budget, with a projected deficit of \$17,400, was passed by the vestry in February. Throughout the year, income projections, which were based on 2013 levels, fell short, primarily in pledges received (down 10%). Expenses, however, were about \$10,300 less than budgeted even though we began to experience increased utility costs (up 19%) with the opening of the new wing of the building and substantially increased water bills. This was balanced by a reduction in payroll expenses with the resignation of the Youth Director in August, 2014.

2015 Budget The vestry passed a balanced parish budget for 2015 in January with optimistic projections for all income categories. Because there are several new conditions that do not match those of previous years, this budget includes assumptions for additional expenses (increased utilities, property insurance, interest payments on the line of credit, rector search activities, and transition expenses) and reduced costs (partial salaries/expenses for Rector and Youth Director and small reductions in about 50% of budgeted accounts). Actual expenditures and income will be monitored monthly by the Finance Committee throughout the year and recommendations made to the vestry for budget changes as appropriate.

	2014 Budget Report		2015 Budget
Income			
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>
Pledges	\$784,000	\$702,848	\$800,000
Plate	45,000	41,653	45,000
Other Income	4,500	2,627	5,700
Parish Organizations	7,900	6,300	10,000
Outside Organizations	6,400	4,855	13,300
TOTAL	\$884,000	\$794,391 (-\$89,609)	\$874,220
Expenditures			
Payroll & Related	\$535,269	\$520,950	\$434,200
Parochial ministry	26,900	22,692	40,700
Diocesan Pledge	40,000	44,212	40,000
Outreach	24,000	23,602	20,000
Administration	86,720	80,468	74,620
Property	190,500	199,161	264,700
TOTAL	\$901,398	\$891,095 (-\$10,303)	\$874,220
DEFICIT	\$17,400	\$96,704	Balanced

Stewardship Committee Report, Mike Townsend

The annual canvass, fall of 2014, is still seeing pledges come in during these first months of 2015. As of the end of February 2015, St. Mark's had received 306 pledges for a total of \$776,333, with a few pledges still outstanding. The number of pledges declined slightly from last year, with the dollars pledged staying flat, as it has for several years. Here are the results of the last four canvasses:

Canvass Year	Pledge Units	Amount Pledged
2012	345	\$784,845
2013	329	\$772,012
2014	331	\$774,407
2015 (as of Feb. 28)	306	\$776,333

This year's canvass was mainly conducted electronically, with outreach to members via e-mail and phone calls, supplemented by bulletin announcements, *Gospel* articles, and oral announcements at Sunday services. One new feature of this year's canvass effort was an online pledge form that accessible on the St. Mark's web site and submitted electronically. The electronic submissions went to the Stewardship Chair and to the Parish Administrator for Finance and Membership only. This method of submitting a pledge

form proved enormously popular – more than 200 pledge forms were submitted in this manner. We should continue this practice in future canvasses.

Another new feature of the canvass this year was a survey about members' talents and interests. The pledge form (both paper and electronic version) included a list of 36 skills and asked pledgers to check the appropriate boxes to indicate their interests. There was also space to write additional information if the individual wanted to provide detail about his/her skills or interests. This effort was inspired and designed by the Outreach Board with input from the Stewardship Chair. The goal was to gather a better understanding of members with interests and skills that could be put to use within St. Mark's or by the parish's non-profit partners. More than 125 people responded to the survey. Results were provided to the Outreach Board who will be sharing information with the other pillars as appropriate. Care will be taken to ensure that an individual who indicated talent or interest in multiple areas will not be inundated with requests from multiple sources to put those skills to use. Clearly, this information can also be used to identify future leaders of a variety of parish activities. We recommend continuing this practice in future canvasses as well.

Looking forward, there was a clear message that our annual canvass process has become stale and uninspiring. While the ease of pledging electronically was appreciated and is important, this year's canvass – as has been the case for several years now – lacked opportunity to build connections and community. It also did not produce conversations about the financial needs of the parish or about the importance of pledging as generously as possible. Moreover, there is anecdotal evidence that some younger and newer members of St. Mark's are not familiar with the concept of pledging to a church and have little context about how they can best be financially supportive of the community.

Therefore, Stewardship at St. Mark's in 2015 will become more of a year-round effort and feature a much more interactive fall canvass. I have agreed to chair this effort for 2016 and am pleased to report that a number of people have already stepped forward to assist. We will return to a traditional "Every Member Canvass," which has not been undertaken at St. Mark's in nearly a decade. A leadership team is already being put together to oversee this process and, in the Spring of 2015, a call will go out to the membership to recruit a large group of canvassers. Canvassers will receive training, and will be assigned 3-6 families to build relationships with and, ultimately, to ask next fall for a pledge. It is hoped that this process will result in increased enthusiasm about giving to St. Mark's, but, perhaps more importantly, that it will build community by creating new connections among parishioners. Further details on this process will be forthcoming. For this year's canvass effort, I am grateful to a number of people who helped with outreach including Mary Cooper, Gail Guiffrida, Marilu Sherer, and Joe Tarantolo. I am also grateful to Sally Garr Brodhead, with whom I worked closely on the design of the talents survey and who is coordinating the follow-up based on the survey results.



Finally, for her tireless devotion to keeping the database straight, for her unfailingly accurate reports, for her good humor in responding to literally hundreds of questions, and for her flexibility and willingness to work with the new electronic pledge form, I am enormously appreciative of our Parish Administrator of Finance and Membership, Susan Block.

The original safe

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

In 2002 the St. Mark's Vestry approved a charter creating an endowment 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. A five-member board approved by the Vestry manages the endowment.

Contributions and bequests are presently invested in the Vanguard STAR Fund (VGSTX), which follows a balanced investment approach by placing 63% of its assets in common stocks, 25% in bonds, and 12% in cash. It is a low-cost, well-managed fund that is appropriate for the Endowment's moderate to conservative investment goals.

In 2009 the Vestry approved, for disbursement computation, the most commonly used method in the non-profit world. 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.

Description of Funds and 2014 Disbursements and Activities

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. In 2014 a total of \$520,000 was withdrawn from this fund in three transactions. All money withdrawn was deposited in the capital campaign fund. At the request of the donor \$20,000 was withdrawn from principal. At the request of the Vestry \$400,844 was withdrawn from principal. Also at the request of the Vestry, \$99,156, accumulated spendable money, was withdrawn from the fund.

Hoitsma Fund: Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this fund provides for long-term improvements to our buildings that are not covered by the operating budget. In 2014 there were no disbursements from this fund. \$1147 from the sale of columbarium units was transferred to the Hoitsma Fund as partial repayment of a loan from the fund for their construction.

General Fund: This fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the Church. At the request of the donor \$40,000 was withdrawn from principal in 2014 and deposited in the capital campaign fund.

Verna Dozier Fund: Initially set up in 2000 from funds donated, but not needed, for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory, this fund provides scholarships for college-bound seniors at Dunbar High School who aspire to become teachers. Among criteria for selection is a student essay on the importance of teaching. The DC College Access Program for Dunbar High School selects the awardees. No scholarships were given in 2014.

Craighill Dance Fund: Set up in 1984 by a gift from the Craighill family to support the St. Mark's Dance Studio, this fund also includes the Beryl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for promising dancers. In 2014, at the recommendation of the dance board, \$3963 of spendable funds was used for scholarships, and \$6000 of spendable funds was used to partially cover dance studio losses resulting from the Vision 2020 project.

Arts Fund: This fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. At the request of the donor \$15,000 was withdrawn from principal in 2014 and deposited in the capital campaign fund.

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. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2014.

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

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

Kathryn Powers (Co-Chair) - 202-544-7777
Beth Mahood (Treasurer) - 703-622-7293

Cecilia Monahan (Co-Chair) - 202-544-4759
Dave Wellman (Architect) - 202-364-0760

Vacant (Finances)

31-Jan-15

St. Mark's Endowment Funds
Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2014
2014 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

	General	Arts	Building Preservation	Holtama Capital Improvement	Holtkamp Organ Maintenance	Dozier Education	Craighill Dance	Total
A Beginning Fund Value 1-1-2014	\$158,514	\$63,955	\$697,327	\$142,441	\$30,423	\$47,283	\$155,696	\$1,295,639
B Plus: New Donations During 2014 2/8/2014 Repay loan - columbarium -\$1147				1,147				1,147
C (Minus): Disbursements in 2014 5/22/2014 Building - Vision 2020 5/22/2014 Vision 2020 - Remove principle per original donor request & vestry approval 5/23/2014 Dance Scholarships 6/18/2014 Dance Scholarships & Impact 2020 6/24/2014 Building - Vision 2020 - remove principle per vestry override	(40,000)	(15,000)	(99,156) (20,000) (400,844)				(3,963) (6,000)	(99,156) (75,000) (3,963) (6,000) (400,844)
D Plus or (Minus): YTD Change in Market Value since Dec 31, 2013 memo - market gain as percent of beginning balance	10,037 6.33%	4,095 6.40%	39,130 5.61%	10,545 7.40%	2,236 7.35%	3,477 7.35%	11,203 7.20%	80,723 6.81%
E Current Fund Value 12-31-14 - per Vanguard stmt	\$128,551	\$53,950	\$216,457	\$154,133	\$32,659	\$50,760	\$156,936	\$792,546
MEMO ONLY: Calculation of what can be spent in 2014:								
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of Dec 31, 2013 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)	133,751	53,307	581,230	116,750	25,358	41,501	131,659	1,083,556
2014 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2014 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009 PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010 PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2011 PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2012 PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2013	6,688	2,665	29,062	5,838	1,268	2,075	6,583	54,178
		3,113			968			3,113
		2,054	0	863				3,885
		1,985	19,185	4,830	963		313	27,276
	2,823	2,104	24,315	4,768	1,030		5,708	40,748
	6,213	2,394	26,594	5,265	1,145	122	6,078	47,811
Subtotal	9,036	11,650	70,094	15,726	4,106	122	12,099	122,833
TOTAL 2013 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2013 Year to date Spent (see above)	15,734	14,315	99,156	21,564	5,374	2,197	18,682	177,011
Available to spend as of 12-31-14 - carryforward	\$ 15,734	\$ 14,315	\$ (0)	\$ 21,564	\$ 5,374	\$ 2,197	\$ 8,719	\$ 67,892

LOANS DUE TO THE ENDOWMENT: (HOITSM4)
transaction #1 Due From St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account - interest free loan
transaction #2 (To be repaid as money is collected from Columbarium sales.)

8/8/2011 NOTE:	Board is to initiate requests for transfer annually or as needed
11/30/2011 Balance Due from St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account	25,000
4/28/2013 NOTE:	Board is to initiate requests for transfer annually or as needed
4/28/2013 Balance Due from St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account	7,300
2/8/2014 NOTE:	Board is to initiate requests for transfer annually or as needed
12/31/2014 Balance Due from St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account	32,300
	(2,200)
	30,100
	(2,413)
	27,687
	(1,147)
	26,540

Vestry Actions March '13 through February '14

Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action
Date of action are listed by month-year (03-12 = March, 2012)

Date	Subject	Action
VA-04-14	Finance/Process	Approve parish participation in Renewal Works; authorized \$500 to process data.
VA-04-14	Finance/V2020	Approve \$75,000 from contingency funds to repair Dance Studio roof and purchase and install an air conditioning condenser & air handler.
VA-05-14	Finance/V2020	Accept the recommendation of the Vision 2020 Steering Committee re: financing of solar panels; authorizes direct purchase of the system from Solare using funds in the Vision 2020 base budget.
VA-05-14	Fabric	Rescinds the earlier decision of Vestry to install nave sprinkler
VA05-14	Finance	Directs Endowment Board to release of the remainder of funds requested by Vision 2020 t not already transferred to Steering Committee control by June 27, 2014.
VA-06-14	Leadership	Appoints Nadine Hathaway & Jim Ashley Co-Chairs of the Rector Discernment/Search Committee.
VA-06-14	Fabric/V2020	Locates the mural outside the office suite/increase size; locate a smaller copy in foyer as a part of history of St. Mark's.
VA-07-14	Fabric/V2020	Spend up to \$40,000 from the contingency fund to pressure-grout library walls and abate mold damage to the walls.
VA-07-14	Fabric/V2020	Approves names for new/renovated rooms
VA-07-14	Fabric	Confirm charter for the Fabric Committee.
VA-07-14	Membership	Approve greeting pilot project as recommended by Membership Development Committee.
VA-07-14	Outreach	Approve a special collection at both July 27 services for Al Ahli Arab Hospital.
VA-07-14	Finance	Appoint Michael Summey, Martha Huizenga. John Edwards, and Andrew Stafford to the Finance Committee.
VA-08-14	Finance	Modify 2014 budget.
VA-08-14	Fabric	Dedicate kitchen to Tucker and Jack Harris and designate Dance Studio as Craighill Room
VA-09-14	Finance/V2020	Authorize the Vision 2020 negotiate with National Capital Bank for an additional loan not to exceed \$350,000.
VA-09-14	Search	Appoint members of the Discernment and Search Committee.
VA-10-14	Finance/V2020	Authorize agreement with National Capital Bank for a line of credit of up to \$350,000.
VA-10-14	Fabric/Finance	Decisions regarding the columbarium, including price (\$1200).
VA-10-14	Finance/Leadership	Appoint Andrew Stafford as Assistant Treasurer and Marcia Knutson as money counter.
VA-11-14	Fabric/Leadership	Appoint Jack Burton as Manciple.
VA-11-14	Search	Approve "Vestry Charge to the Discernment and Search Committee for the 12 th Rector of St. Mark's Church."
VA-11-14	Staff	Approve hiring interim rector as early as February 1, 2015, if canvass allows, but no later than June 1, 2015.
VA-11-14	Staff	Empower Senior Warden and his designees to negotiate with Justi Schunior for service to the Parish from February 1, 2015 to Jan 31, 2016 with optional one-month extensions past that time, upon mutual agreement.
VA-11-14	Staff	Eff. February 1 until interim rector hired, The Rev. Justi Schunior shall be Priest-in-Charge pro tem.
VA-11-14	Outreach	Authorizes Alternative Gift Fair on December 7 to 21, Baxter Hall.
VA-11-14	Finance/Fundraiser	Authorize the Guild for Psychological Studies of St. Mark's to hold art show December 6-7.
VA-12-14	Search	Commends the Discernment/Search Committee analysis and report of <i>Renewal/Works</i>
VA-12-14	Staff	Accept the report of the Task Force for Re-Visioning Youth and Family Ministry

VA-12-14	Finance/Staff	Approve the previously approved payment of \$31,250 to Rev. Paul Abernathy.
VA-1-15	Elections	Appoint Grady Hedgespeth, Michael Summey (Wardens), Amy Kovac-Ashley, Pam Lacey, and Jim Steed (Vestry members), and George Meng (non-member of the Vestry) to the 2015 Nominating Committee.
VA-01-15	Bylaws	Approve submission of a by-laws amendment re: parish membership.
VA-01-15	Staff/Search	Appoint Steve Dalzell (chair), Beth Mahood, Mary Freed, Kris Humphreys, Ken Johnson and Julie Murphy as Search Committee for Director of Youth and Family Ministry.
A-2-15	Finance	Approve the 2015 Operating Budget.
VA-02-15	Elections	Appoint Mary Ellison, non-Vestry member, to the 2015 Nominating Committee.
	Staff	Approved Letter of Agreement with the Rev. Justi Schunior

REPORTS BY VESTRY STANDING COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Membership Committee *Doris Burton, Mary Thuell, Co-Chairs*

The Membership Committee consists of a chair and co-chair, three Vestry members (one from each ‘class’) and six parishioners selected by the chair in consultation with the other members, and approved by the Senior Warden.

Our bylaws state ‘The mission of the Committee shall be to:

- a. Develop and publicize a clear definition of ‘membership’ as well as provide guidelines for a transition into the life of the community in consultation with the Vestry and in keeping with the current By-laws of the parish.
- b. Develop ways to invite newcomers to move toward Membership in order to grow a larger, more diverse, and committed parish.
- c. Work with the Pillars, particularly Parish Life and Christian Education, to publicize and implement plans, projects, and programs designed to encourage and support membership.
- d. Encourage engagement of our parish in leadership opportunities as well as the general life of the parish
- e. Develop ways to sustain our members by building stronger bonds of understanding, caring and support for one another across boundaries of age, race, family status, sexual orientation, economic status, residential location, and duration of time at St. Mark’s.’

While the committee was created in 2009, its earlier iteration struggled with its charge and ultimately dissolved only to be re-established in May of 2013. We meet monthly to address ways we can carry out our mission but find the work to be slow.

Thus far we have:

- re-designed the guest card and implemented a better way of getting them distributed.
- piloted a greeter plan that went through several iterations before going back to what we have done for many years. We find getting volunteers to often be difficult without a direct ask.
- encouraged the use of nametags. Steve Schindel produces these for us. Distribution/storage remains an unresolved issue
- We have started to fulfill our first goal, that of developing a clear definition of membership. Our proposed amendment to the parish bylaws was approved at the January Vestry meeting and will be presented to the parish for its approval at the Annual Meeting. We will submit our ‘guidelines for transition into the life of the community’ no later than the April meeting.

Through Justi’s contact with The Rev. Canon Joey Rick at Church House, we have learned that our responsibility begins when a person walks through our doors. Thus, we will be urging the next Vestry to create a

Communications Committee tasked with developing ways to invite the wider world into our community.

While we have never set a specific goal in terms of membership numbers, our hope is that this committee will continue to find ways to fulfill its stated mission of ‘building stronger bonds of understanding, caring, and support for one another’ as a spiritual community for newcomers but also between those and our long-standing members.

Race and Reconciliation *inactive, no chair*

Elders *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, Conveners*

The Elders include all former Wardens and Directors of Christian Education. They meet upon the request of the wardens, co-directors, clergy or other parish leaders. An annual dinner for Elders and spouses is held in the spring.

There are currently 49 Elders living in the area and active. Nationwide, 68 Elders remain in contact.

The 2014 spring Elders' dinner was held Sunday May 18th. Four new Elders were ceremoniously inducted into the august ranks: Susan Thompson and Nat White, Co-Directors of Christian Education; Lilly March, Former Director of Religious Education (under Rev. Bill Baxter); and Nora Howell, founder and sustainer of the children's catechesis program.

On October 5th the Elders were convened by the Discernment and Search Committee Co-Chair (and Elder) Nadine Hathaway to meet Co-Chair Jim Ashley, for Q & A, and a general discussion of the search process. The meeting was most-appropriately held in the new Elders' Room.

Vision 2020 Steering Committee: Final Report *Kenn Allen and Michael Townsend, Co-Chairs*

On September 28, 2014, St. Mark's proudly welcomed the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Washington, The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, to an extraordinary service at which she dedicated the new spaces at our church. The service was a fabulous celebration of a five-year odyssey that began in 2009 with the first meetings of an ad hoc Building Task Force and has now concluded with a successful \$5.5 million renovation of St. Mark's. The project was known as Vision 2020 to symbolize how clearly we see our future as a community.

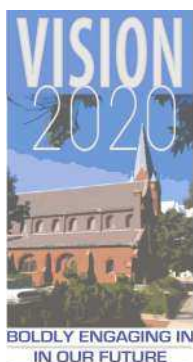
Construction on the project to renovate and expand our historic Parish Hall building began in 2013 and continued at a breakneck pace throughout 2014, culminating with the opening of the new space in September. Our construction team worked on a seemingly endless “punch list” of items throughout the fall, and, truth be told, there were still a few things that needed completion as we moved into early 2015. Final bills were still being settled as of late February, but we expect all payments to be finalized shortly. The Vision 2020 Steering Committee formally disbanded at the end of January 2015, having completed its work. Management of the building was transferred to the Junior Warden, Michael Summey, who is supported by the Fabric Committee, chaired by Nora Howell.

A formal “Final Report” of the project was completed to coincide with the September 2014 dedication of the new space. The report (handsomely designed by parishioner Karen Falk) includes a detailed narrative history of the project; a list of the nearly \$300,000 worth of deferred maintenance and capital improvements that were made to other parts of the building during the project; a list of the numerous “green initiatives” that were incorporated into the building, including the installation of solar panels on the rear roof of the Parish Hall; acknowledgement by name of the more than 100 individuals, both St. Mark's members and outside professionals, without whom the project could not have been completed; and, most importantly, a listing of the nearly 300 people who contributed nearly \$3 million in support of the project. Copies of the Final Report can be obtained from the Parish Office or by contacting Vision 2020 Co-Chair Michael Townsend. Because of the detail contained in that report, we have decided not to repeat much of the detail here.

The summary of the finances of the Vision 2020 project is from our Treasurer, Linda Ewald. Going forward, St. Mark's is carrying two lines of credit with National Capital Bank. First, we borrowed \$1 million to finance the project, and have begun monthly interest payments on that loan out of the parish operating budget. The line of credit is due for renewal in August 2015. At that time, we will discuss with National Capital Bank whether they want us to convert to mortgage, a commercial loan or some other loan arrangement. We met with the Bank's Chief Loan Officer in January 2015 and he indicated a strong willingness, given the long history of relations between St. Mark's and National Capital Bank, to work closely with the parish leadership on the best possible terms for this loan going forward.

We are also carrying a second line of credit with National Capital Bank, in the amount of \$350,000. This loan is specifically to cover the cash-flow shortfall that results from the fact that while all payments for the project are nearly complete, not all pledge income has been received. Pledgers to Vision 2020 had the option to make multi-year pledges of up to five years, meaning that additional pledge income in excess of \$300,000 is expected in 2015 and 2016. As pledge payments are made, those payments go directly toward paying down this line of credit. We expect to completely pay off this second line of credit by the end of 2016.

We are enormously proud of the new space and deeply grateful to the St. Mark's community for your support and commitment to an effort that was disruptive, challenging and occasionally frustrating, but one that will undoubtedly strengthen St. Mark's for generations to come.



DEDICATION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

1-Crucifer Brian Derr, with the 1895 cross, and acolytes Kellye Wray and Emily Townsend prepare to lead the procession. 2-Roland Hoover presents a broadside honoring the dedication, now hanging in the foyer. 3-Mike Townsend and 4-Kenn Allen tell the story of the project. 5-The Transition Team bows in acknowledgment of the parish's thanks; 6-Architect Jeremy Arnold, Project Manager Alex Berley, and Church Foundation consultant Andi Tillman are acknowledged for their roles and decommissioned; 7-Bishop Mariann breaks up at a comment by Paul Abernathy, then 8-presides at Eucharist with Paul and Justi; 9-The bishop blesses the door to the renovated parish house, then cuts the ribbon; 10-Vision2020 Steering Committee

Dedication Sunday was photographed by Elizabeth Chomas. All photos can be viewed and prints ordered at: www.shutterfly.com/pro/elizabethchomasphotography/StMarks

Transition Team *Jack Burton & Phil Guire, co-chairs; Janice Gregory, Jack Richards, Charlie Rupp, Bobbi Smith*

The Transition Team for Vision2020 is happy to report that we are past our 'expiration date' and closed for further business. As unfinished details related to the move arise, they are referred to our Manciple, who has volunteered himself for this duty (noble lad!)

During 2014 we:

- led the move of all property stored in either the trailer or off-site unit into our new space
- worked with Vision2020 Steering Committee to make significant design improvements in the construction plans to better utilize the new storage spaces.
- installed shelving in the storage room off Baxter Hall, storage fittings in the Worship space, and storage/shelving in the staff workroom.
- assisted with the completion of installation details
- worked with Worship to provide better and more functional storage for liturgical pieces
- continue working to dispose of items we no longer need (punch cups, chairs, screen, and baby-changing stations to churches, kitchen work tables and old foyer lamps to people connected to St. Mark's)

We thank the many volunteers who answered our several and assorted calls for help in this massive undertaking.



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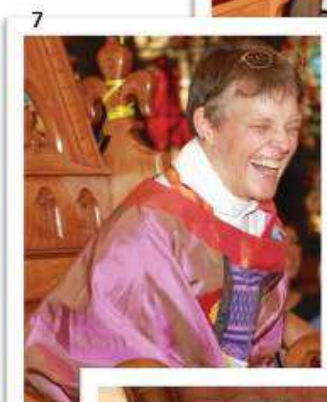
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Transition Team
 Jack Burton
 Phil Guire
 Janice Gregory
 Jack Richards
 Charlie Rupp

8



7



9



10

Vision2020 Steering Committee:
 (l-r) Justi Schunior,
 Paul Abernathy,
 Doris Burton,
 Fritz Henn,
 Nora Howell,
 Phil Guire,
 Charlie Rupp,
 Louise Walsh,
 Grady Hedgespeth, Linda Ewald, Ed Corr;
Front: Kenn Allen, Bishop Budde, Mike Townsend

St Mark's Capital Campaign	2011	2012	2013	2014-5	TOTAL
Borrowing on Line	200,000.00	(200,000.00)		1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
				350,000.00	350,000.00
Income to Vision2020 Account	255,038.13	292,356.14	1,499,721.50	382,511.36	2,429,627.13
Income to Vestry Account		30,734.81	61,837.52	84,992.71	177,565.04
Sale of Baxter House		1,107,174.17			1,107,174.17
From Endowment				500,000.00	500,000.00
Interest income			887.65	406.69	1,294.34
From DCSEU for new boiler				16,500.00	16,500.00
					5,582,160.68
Expenditures					
Episcopal Church Foundation	41,575.00				41,575.00
Diocese of Washington	25,866.34				25,866.34
Bonstra/Haresign	80,346.67	196,985.40	68,548.10	98,956.10	444,836.27
E & G Group	55,436.23	103,064.88	73,159.42	83,918.71	315,579.24
Other Consultants Design	28,482.80		9,362.09		37,844.89
Other Consultants Mechanical		25,963.17	6,823.90	35,911.43	68,698.50
Permits	2,500.00	2,529.75	39,785.19	2,552.20	47,367.14
Monarc Construction			354,962.30	3,624,708.99	3,979,671.29
Moving, storage and trailers		3,536.44		86,614.31	147,236.70
DC for Street repair Deposit		33,635.56	57,085.95	(32,393.56)	3,686.44
Furnishings			2,444.44	243,086.17	243,086.17
Computer & phones				3,999.21	3,999.21
Security				37,670.79	37,670.79
Solar				47,775.20	47,775.20
Campaign Events	14,911.71		301.33	5,969.01	21,182.05
Postage & new mailbox		25.20		1,014.95	1,040.15
Interest	1,802.93	2,268.49	164.39	17,052.04	21,287.85
Bank fees	135.66	238.84	180.00	180.00	734.50
Parking			170.00		
Misc: Rent on 114 3rd St. Dance Sal.				1,700.00	1,870.00
Mural, Broadside, copies, mailing				11,346.00	11,346.00
Total Expenses	251,057.34	368,247.73	612,987.11	4,273,558.95	5,505,851.13
Cash available to pay bills	203,980.79	1,065,998.18	2,015,457.74	76,309.55	

Diocesan Report *Raiford Gaffney, Suella Henn and Joe Tarantolo, Lay Delegates;
Rev. Justi Schunior, Clerical Delegate.*

St. Mark's and the Diocese St. Mark's has benefitted greatly from Diocesan assistance this past year. Bishop Mariann Budde presided and preached at the dedication of our new space, September 28, 2014. Others in the Bishop's Office have also supported us as our 11th Rector, The Rev. Paul Abernathy, retired January 25, 2015. They continue to support and advise us in our time of transition, parish-wide discernment and search for a new rector, a Youth and Family Minister, and an interim rector as well as supporting our priest-in-charge, Rev. Justi Schunior. The support has come from Canon Joey Rick (Congressional Vitality), Iman Green (Youth and Family Ministry), Jason Evans (Young Adult Ministry), and Canon Paula Clark (Clergy Development).

In addition to the Diocesan delegates, Maureen Shea was elected from our region to a three-year term on Diocesan Council. Rick Rutherford is one of two Diocesan lay representatives to the Province III Synod and worked on the Diocesan task force on Socially Responsible Investing.

120th Convention The theme of the convention was "Engaging a Changing World with an Enduring Faith in Jesus Christ," once again held at Reid Temple AME Church, Glen Dale, Maryland. This venue provides us with easily accessible and ample space for worship, workshops, various gatherings, meals, helpful staff and plenty of parking. But there was some discussion of missing the beautiful setting of the National Cathedral and there will be discernment about returning to the Cathedral next year and providing workshops at a different time and location.

The first business session (Friday) was conducted within the context of Eucharist. The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, was the guest speaker addressing the theme of the convention under the title "Daring Greatly." He posed the question whether we might sometimes be an inward looking church with an outward looking Lord. He called us to remember *who* we are and to *live* the experiment to which Jesus calls us, to go out befriending a world in need and challenging the status quo, reminding us to "remember forward and hope backward" for God is faithful and already at work in the world.

Bishop Mariann's address (Saturday morning) began with the three mission priorities of the Diocese, 'Growing Christian Community', 'Connecting Spirituality to Everyday Life', and 'Striving for Justice', citing ways in which congregations are engaging in them, often with the help of Church House staff.

Workshops are a highlight of Convention and the 16 that were offered on Friday and Saturday focused on the three mission priorities. A workshop in each of the priorities was attended by at least one of your four delegates. The rich diversity of conversations was ably led by diocesan and parish representatives.

The resolution on implementation of SRI (Sustainable and Responsible) Principles in Diocesan investment was withdrawn and Diocesan Council sent it to a committee for further study. The resolution on church response to systemic racial injustice was passed. A substitute resolution on pursuing justice, peace and security in the Holy Land also passed by almost a 2-to-1 margin. It calls for Israeli and Palestinians of all faiths to refrain from violence and oppression, makes clear that legitimate criticism of Israeli government policy may not be equated with anti-Jewish prejudice, calls for the SRI committee to present a full accounting of any relevant actions relating to existing investment policies, urges parishes to increase their understanding of the issues and to consider all nonviolent approaches to ending the occupation and expansion of settlements. It did not include any specific call to boycott, divest or sanction as the original resolution did.

Links to the addresses of Bishop Wright and Bishop Mariann can be found by going to:
[http://www.edow.org/article/2015-diocesan-convention/.](http://www.edow.org/article/2015-diocesan-convention/)

For diocesan information and opportunities go to: www.edow.org

Discernment and Search Committee *Nadine Hathaway and Jim Ashley, co-chairs*

Members: Chris Berendes, Charmian Crawford, Caitlin Frazier, Susan Flanders, Greg Gay, Diane Hoover, Fay Johnson, Cecilia Monahan, and Rick Rutherford

In July 2014, the Vestry approved the selection of Jim Ashley and Nadine Hathaway as co-chairs of the Discernment and Search Committee (DSC). A selection committee, chaired by Bill Jordan and composed of two Vestry members and two parishioners, received applications and determined the finalists for committee membership. Their process for selecting DSC members to recommend was thorough and careful. Their final slate of candidates, including the co-chairs, reflected the broad diversity of our parish to the greatest extent possible from the parishioners who applied. After a thorough discussion, the Vestry approved the slate of candidates submitted by the committee in September. Following receipt the DSC's official charge from the Vestry in October, we were commissioned during church services.

Since that time, we have engaged in a thoughtful and deliberate process to come together as a committee to create an environment that will support us spiritually and sustain us in our work of finding our next rector. We incorporate deep listening practices, and work to create a place of safety, trust and openness to all ideas for consideration. We are committed to carrying out our work faithfully in a balanced, thoughtful, and transparent way. To fulfill our goal of providing full information about our work in a transparent manner, we have created several avenues for communication and sharing information with the congregation. Up to date information can be found on our website: <http://www.stmarksdsc.wordpress.com>

The 'work we have been called to do' consists of two important phases – the discernment phase and the search phase.

The Discernment This work consisted of a period of communal self-reflection and examination intended to provide the DSC and the congregation with an understanding of who we have been, who we are, and who we want to be. We have offered a variety of activities to the parish in this period of "St. Mark's hearing it-self" that will inform us and the community of the type of leader we are seeking in our next rector.

We planned and are conducting a comprehensive series of surveys, discussion groups, and all-parish meetings designed to engage and gather input from all in our congregation.

Thus far, we have:

- promoted and guided the congregation through the *Renewal Works Survey* (188 parishioners responded). *Renewal Works* is an Episcopal planning tool designed to provide a process for assessing the spiritual vitality of a congregation through surveying the beliefs and spiritual practices of its members. Although reactions to the survey were quite mixed, we view the fact that so many parishioners responded to the survey as a statement that our community is truly open, honest and engaged. After careful deliberation of our *Renewal Works* experience, we felt there was valuable information to be extracted from the survey data that needed to be shared with the Vestry and the congregation. We reported our findings and recommendations to the Vestry on December 14. We then discussed our results with the congregation during our first town hall meeting January 4. More than 100 parishioners attended the 1 p.m. session and approximately 25 people attended the 6 p.m. session.
- organized and facilitated 22 *home gatherings* in Washington, Maryland and Virginia. Approximately 200 parishioners participated in these dinners, teas and brunches. The gatherings have proven again how parishioners love to share their personal stories of St. Mark's and imagine the changes ahead. We are grateful to our hosts who made this possible. *Late January-March 1, 2015*
- conducted two sets of *Town Hall meetings*. Round 1, titled "*What Keeps You Here?*" was offered in three sessions to encourage members from each of our services to participate. Round 2, titled "*What do*

you Hope to See In Our Next Rector?" also in three sessions, focused on discussing and describing those characteristics. *February and March*

- spent time in Sunday school classes March 8th In order to gather *youth input*. We held informal conversations with children about their hopes and dreams for our next rector. We are grateful to the Co-Directors of Christian Education and the teachers for their assistance in these events.

We are currently studying a variety of parish documents and pillar reports to capture the history, programs, budgets and aspirations expressed by other parish leaders. Reading with fresh eyes for our search, we are looking for the themes, patterns and legacy that will support the profile and interview process. With this, and all of the information we have gathered through the variety of activities we have offered, we will be drafting a parish profile and hope to submit it to the Vestry in April.

The Search: Upon completion of the parish profile, the DSC will transition into the quiet phase of our work during which we will officially post the job announcement for our next rector, review applications, interview candidates, and, ultimately, make a recommendation to the Vestry.



*The Market House which stood on the corner of 3rd & A St., SE, where the nave of St. Mark's now stands
Digital photo courtesy of Capitol Hill Presbyterian which owns the original*



REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP *Jessie Babcock and Alvin Moseberry, Co-Directors*

The Liturgy Planning Team (LPT) is a group of lay and clergy who design worship that is meaningful and dynamic. We continued the tradition of creative, challenging liturgy and explored new ways to offer spiritual nourishment to the parish through our communal worship.

LPT held our annual retreat in August, where we discussed ways to improve worship, particularly for the morning services; creating space for lectionary discussion; bringing worship into the world, and other ideas. From this retreat, we began a practice of dimming the lights in the nave at the prelude during the morning services to create a meditative atmosphere for worship.

In June, Worship Co-Director David Deutsch passed the reins to Jessie Babcock, with Alvin Moseberry remaining in his role until June 2015.

Highlights from 2014 include:

- **March - May:** Ashes-to Go —On Ash Wednesday, from 8-9 am and 5-6 pm, Rev. Justi Schunior, assisted by verger David Deutsch and Marcella Gillis, held our now annual tradition of offering the Imposition of Ashes to Metro commuters at Capitol South station. More than 150 people participated. The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service included another foot washing “spa experience.” Easter ‘Greening’ continued under the fantastic leadership of Rita Ossolinski. Earth Mass on May 18 consisted of a special liturgy including of a jazz band, choral music, projected pictures of nature, and a Eucharist.
- **June - August:** In August, we sponsored a sermon series, “Meeting God in our Lives: Exploring Spiritual Practices.” Guest preachers included Suella Henn, Grady Hedgespeth, David Deutsch, Emily Williams Guffey, Emily Guthrie, and Justi Schunior. This was one of our most successful sermon series, and explored practices such as silence, spiritual friends, and breath.

September – December

- On Sept. 28, we celebrated the completion of our new parish house. A special service organized by Doris Burton, with liturgy adapted by Doris, Linda Chandlee, and Mary DeNys, it was led by former wardens, featured members of the Dance Company, first-ever ribbons, glorious music by our choir and handbells, included a presentation of a commemorative broadside, the decommissioning of the Steering and Transition committees and the professionals who led the work on the building, and included a terrific sermon preached by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. The bishop cut the ribbon to the renovated parish house, and blessed every inch of the beautiful new spaces as she moved thru the building. The service ended with a brunch and a parish photo. We were honored to welcome back our first female priest, Rev. Anne Amy Gavin, our recent seminarian, Rev. Kristen Hawley, now at Christ Church+Georgetown, and guests from Lichfield, our sister congregation.

- The Altar Guild transitioned from its temporary space in the antechapel to their new sacristy and has greatly benefited from a beautiful and enlarged space with plenty of storage. Acolytes and vergers have also benefited from additional storage and beautiful surroundings in which to prepare for worship each week.
- The theme for Advent, "Catching the Light," was captured perfectly by the light displays created for Christmas by Lisa Ramish and the greening team.

January - February

- In January, we bade a fond farewell to our eleventh rector, Paul Roberts Abernathy. A special LPT sub-committee, led by Bobbi Smith, planned the Epiphany season liturgy, with special focus on Paul's final service. The season theme, "Showing Forth Love and Justice," expressed Paul's own ministry. The January 25th service included several special elements, including dance and vocal tributes. On Feb. 1, our Senior Warden, Grady Hedgespeth, formally commissioned Justi as "Priest-in-Charge" with a special liturgy along with a musical tribute by the women of the parish.

5 pm Service: A few years after the 5pm service began, several families in the congregation welcomed a baby into their lives. Now, several of those families are preparing to welcome (or have already!) a second child. One could truthfully say that the 5pm congregation is growing from inside and out.

On November 23, the 5pm congregation held a town meeting to discuss what aspects of the service they like or do not like. Topics discussed included: music, announcements, seating, childcare, financial support (the collection or lack of it), and liturgy.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Kitty Donnelly & Peter Sherer, Co-Directors*

The Christian Education program was established in its overall approach in the 1950s under then rector William Baxter and Charles Penniman of the Education Center in St. Louis. The approach is called "functional education", as it focuses on how we function in our life and how we face life decisions in ways that are (or are not) faithful to our values.

Christian Education has had lay co-directors since the early 1970s. Serving two- year terms, the co-directors oversee a Sunday school program for around 100 children and youth participants in five classes, as well as Sunday and weekday evening adult classes taken by ca. 300 participants.

Christian Education for many years has been and remains today the program with the largest parish participation at St. Mark's. From March 2014 through February 2015, Christian Education classes and events touched the lives of about 470 participants, including 98 youth participants in Sunday School and youth confirmation, 302 adult class participants, 61 leaders of youth and adult classes, with 4 supervisors and 1 Catechesis coordinator, Christian Education Co-Directors and their supervisor, the Christian Education treasurer, retreat coordinator, and CE catalog graphic artist.

While some St Mark's members give their primary allegiance to other church programs, many were attracted to St. Mark's by the energetic and committed ethos that grows out of the intimacy fostered by the functional class experience. Participants are often enthusiastic in their class appraisals. One commented "Once again, a thought-provoking class with the St. Mark's community;" another wrote "The group was interesting and had people I had never been with in a class before;" and "I came to the class thinking I knew a lot about blessings and learned much more than I expected." Recent innovations include offering short courses of 1 to 3 sessions and Sunday afternoon classes that can attract parishioners who go to morning or to 5 pm services.

The Montessori - based 'Catechesis of the Good Shepherd' curriculum is used with three classes of children, age three through grade five. The program believes that all young children have a religious life, that God is present to them in their deepest being, and they are capable of developing both a conscious and intimate relationship with God. We provide vocabulary, Bible lessons, and connections to liturgy to enable them to

become aware of their relationship with God and to express it. Classes offer a time of prayer and song, a time for the presentation of a lesson and a time for individual work by the child. The work of the child is their prayer and is the most important part of the class. Grouped by age or grade level, children attend class in specially prepared rooms that contain attractively displayed handmade materials that invite them to deepen their relationship with God at their own pace. As the child matures, the essentials of our religious faith are presented in increasing detail and sophistication. At each level, presentations focus on the life and teachings of Jesus and the liturgy of the church.

Youth are divided into a middle school class and a high school class with lesson plans developed by our teachers. Lay leaders offer youth confirmation class every two years, using a shortened version of the Confirm Not Conform curriculum. Lessons provide youth a safe place to discuss the tensions and issues that they experience in their lives and an opportunity to become more familiar with stories of Hebrew scripture and the teachings of Jesus. Christian Education Co-Directors co-operate with the Youth and Family Ministry leader who may co-lead the Youth Confirmation Class with lay leaders and may organize various outreach projects as part of Sunday school classes or as outside activities.

Adult classes include four introductory "Gateway" classes for newcomers: Introduction to Life at St. Mark's; Baptism class for parents with children to be baptized; 'Life, Community and Faith' (LCF) for adults; and 'What's An Episcopalian?' to prepare for adult confirmation.

'Life, Community and Faith' is a signature St. Mark's class. A team of four facilitators, often including clergy, plans and leads class discussions on choices we make about life, community and faith. They use the functional method of asking open-ended questions and invite the class to respond from their personal experience in facing choices in their life. These classes play an important role at St. Mark's: they help newcomers find a place in the community and build and sustain membership. Gateway classes, especially LCF, can create a sense of belonging and community, as well as convey St. Mark's functional theology based on raising questions and seeing life as a series of choices. Many are enthusiastic about the experience of the LCF class. One said "LCF really was a transformative experience for me;" another said, "I didn't want to take it but glad I did. It was one of the best things that ever happened to me."

This year adult classes looked at topics such as 'Who Is Jesus and How Do We Know?' 'Blessings, and Risk and Reward in Making Life Decisions'. Other classes offered instruction and experience in centering prayer and other spiritual practices. Bible discussion groups had a faithful following yet attracted newer members too. Classes and retreats inspired by the Guild for Psychological Studies explored texts from the Jesus tradition with a Jungian depth psychological focus. Adult classes brought together members of different ages and tenure at St. Mark's to build and maintain connections across the parish. One person noted, "Classes are a far better way of connecting than sitting in a church allows."

Participants: March 2014- February 2015

Catechesis I, II, III	46 children	9 teachers, 1 Catechesis supervisor
Middle & High School	39 youth	6 teachers 1 supervisor
Youth Confirmation	13 youth	3 teachers
Spring Baptism	6 adults	2 leaders
Fall Baptism	19 adults	2 leaders
Fall Introduction to St. Mark's	4 adults	2 leaders
Fall Life Community & Faith	14 adults	4 leaders; 1 supervisor
What's An Episcopalian?	3 adults	2 leaders
Risk & Reward functional class	15 adults	2 leaders; 1 supervisor
Blessings functional class	14 adults	2 leaders
Christian Education weekend	47 adults	2 leaders

Guild Spring Class	22 adults	
Guild Advent Evening	13 adults	3 leaders
Guild (ongoing groups)	20 adults	
Guild (Summer seminar)	14 adults	
Sunday Bible group: 1st Corinthians	10 adults	1 leader
Wednesday Bible group: Matthew	9 adults	1 leader
Thursday Bible group: Gnostic Gospels	4 adults	3 leaders
Anthropology of the Bible	8 adults	1 leader
Who is Jesus?	12 adults	2 leaders
Advent spiritual practices	8 adults	1 leader
Crazy About Our Kids	12 adults	2 leaders
Climate Change interfaith workshop	20 adults	4 leaders
Green Boat ecology class	6 adults	3 leaders
Beyond the Frame	12 adults	2 leaders
Jesus Seminar on the Road	ca. 90: members and non (not included in totals)	

Meditation Center *Collie Agle, Marlan Green, managers*

The St. Mark's Meditation Center is a chartered organization within St. Mark's. It is also affiliated with the Insight Meditation Community of Washington and has a staff of 6 IMCW certified teachers.

During the past year, the Meditation Center has undertaken three activities:

- *Meditation Gatherings* occur every Monday night. On average, 40 people attend. When we have well known guest presenters, attendance has increased to around 70.
- *Classes* were presented under the framework of Christian Education:
 - Basics of Mindful Meditation
 - Christian Contemplation and Buddhist Meditation
 - Inter-being: the Notion of Interconnectedness
 - World Engagement in Social and Environmental Justice: An Interfaith Exploration.

Special Events Two Saturday events have been sponsored for St. Mark's and the larger Insight Meditation Community of Washington including a Saturday half-day on meditation practice (June 21) and a one-day on climate change (January 31).

Finances The St Mark's Meditation Center is committed to making an annual minimum contribution of \$1000 to St Mark's.

OUTREACH *Marlan Green and Jane Rutherford, co-chairs;*

Members: The Rev. Justi Schunior, Doug Ammon, Sally Garr Brodhead, Marlan Green, Ruth Ann Hess, Michael Knipe, Dan Ramish, Jack Richards, Jane Rutherford.

Mission: Our mission includes caring for "others with love, justice, and compassion." The Outreach Board focuses on the "others" in need who live in the broader Capitol Hill community and in international communities where we have made a conscious commitment.

Vision: The Outreach Board is a successful catalyst for social justice.

Approach: Outreach acts as a catalyst for social justice in our commitment communities. Our "signature" is to actively partner with nonprofit organizations that we determine are highly effective in their service delivery. We commit our time, talent, and treasure to leverage our partners' efforts of supporting individuals

and families to develop their strengths and move toward self-sufficiency and self-determination. By doing so, we build relationships throughout the community and increase our knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing our neighbors in need.

Meetings: Every month except August. Members addressed on-going issues regarding various programs, evaluated funding requests, and reviewed updates on program status.

Programs (The funding each program received from our budget is in parenthesis)

Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) (\$9300) We are a founding member of CHGM, which began in 1967. CHGM helps neighbors, especially families, who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, with achieving housing stability and maximum self-sufficiency. CHGM also operates Shirley's Place, a day hospitality center where homeless families and underserved neighbors can go to make healthy meals for their children, take showers, do laundry, and talk with counselors. Our volunteers supported CHGM efforts through administrative support, board participation, and working with the Homeless Emergency Response Team. Parishioners contributed 41 baskets of food and grocery cards to CHGM's Thanksgiving Basket program, and provided weekly lunches for a twelve-week long parenting class. We also hosted two Family Nights for CHGM families: in August, this included dinner, backpacks and school supplies for students, with entertainment provided by Mr. Skip the Magician, and in December, along with dinner, a visit from Santa and presents of books for children and goodie bags for parents.

Summer Shelter Program We partnered with CHGM and Emory Beacon of Light to support a grandmother and grandson who receive shelter at Emory. St. Mark's volunteers spent the night at Emory House Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights during the months of July and August. Volunteers from the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church helped as well. We enjoyed playing games and baking with the grandson, and talking with the grandmother about her computer classes, all of which she passed with flying colors.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) (\$5200, which was matched by the Empower The Homeless Campaign so that SMGW received a total of more than \$6900) St. Mark's is a founding member of SMGW, which began in 1986. SMGW partners with people who are homeless, or living in poverty or with HIV/AIDS, to help them meet their goals (such as obtaining employment, housing and health care) through case management and support services. St. Mark's parishioners volunteered at SMGW as caseworkers, resume writers and front office coordinators. One parishioner also served on their board of directors and provided pro bono legal advice. Throughout the year, St. Mark's donated bags of groceries to SMGW from our altar baskets.

Salvation Army Grate Patrol (\$1350) This program brings an evening meal to homeless neighbors 365 nights a year and serves more than 3,000 people each month. St. Mark's volunteers, primarily parents and children, have supported this effort for many years, making sandwiches and bagging meals on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Soup Kitchen (\$1420) During the renovation to the parish house, the Soup Kitchen Team continued monthly support to Sunday Suppers by buying and directly delivering food and supplies for 240 bologna and cheese sandwiches. Actual sandwich preparation resumed in Baxter Hall in November 2014. Throughout the year, parishioners continued to pick up a monthly average of 5-8 casserole pans, prepare one or more casseroles, and deliver them individually to the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church.

Space for Non-profit Use Non-profits working with our neighbors living in poverty have difficulty finding affordable office space due to rising rents and lack of availability. At Outreach's request before the renovation, the Vestry created a policy requiring that on-going use of our space reflect our mission of caring for others with love, justice and compassion and a Space Use Board to implement that policy. Accordingly, the SUB is now working on making our space available to non-profits at rates that are less than market, but that would cover our costs of providing such space--a win-win for St. Mark's and our non-profit partners.

Talent Survey Outreach worked with the Canvass co-chair in developing a “talent” survey to be included as part of the Canvass. We are grateful for the tremendous response from parishioners. Our non-profit partners often need particular expertise. Now, with a listing of member talents from the survey, when the need for these talents arises with our partners, we will be able to contact parishioners to let them know that their expertise may be helpful.

2014 Lenten Mite Box Project (\$2057) Parishioners contributed to two organizations that address the needs of women living in poverty: House of Ruth (local) and the Episcopal Relief and Development South Sudan Fund (international).

Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (CAIR) Detained Children’s Program (\$2500) CAIR Coalition offers legal assistance to unaccompanied immigrant children held in six juvenile facilities in Virginia and Maryland. Between January and November 2014, CAIR Coalition’s Detained Children’s Program served 511 children with the majority coming from Central America, including 171 from Honduras. St. Mark’s Outreach provided additional support for this program by matching funds collected through a St. Mark’s youth coin drive. The youth collected \$384.32, which Outreach matched.

Alternative Gift Fair and Coat Drive (\$2685 contributed by parishioners directly to four non-profit organizations—CHGM, SMGW, Heifer International, and St. Paul’s Foundation for International Reconciliation). St. Mark’s volunteers hosted the Fair three Sundays in December, offering the opportunity for people to contribute to the purchase of “alternative” gifts, including hot chocolate for people living on neighborhood streets, warm socks, a water buffalo, and honey bees. Volunteers also collected coats for unaccompanied immigrant children, distributed through the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Catholic Charities.

Welcome Table at Church of the Epiphany (\$250) A group of St. Mark’s parishioners shared in worship, breakfast and fellowship with Epiphany members and visitors, including many people who are homeless in our area.

Episcopal Relief and Development Ebola Crisis Response Fund (\$755) Outreach supported the Fund’s work that, through its local partners in Sierra Leone and Liberia, raises awareness and provides food supplies, personal protection equipment, and disinfectants to under-resourced clinics in affected areas.

Middle East Working Group *Alissa Walter, Reporting*

The Middle East Working Group (MEWG) exists to sponsor parish-oriented events designed to raise awareness about challenges to peace and justice in the Middle East, particularly regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A major initiative in 2014 was to organize a 2015 pilgrimage trip to Israel/Palestine. In preparation, MEWG began monthly events in September. These have four key purposes: (1) prepare pilgrimage group members by educating them about various aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; (2) benefit those who will *not* be able to travel with the pilgrimage group, but are interested in learning more about the conflict and in “participating” in the pilgrimage experience from a distance; (3) former pilgrimage participants are invited to attend these events to continue their education about this conflict and to provide a way to continue their involvement in the Middle East; (4) they are a key form of outreach beyond St. Mark’s. Our collaboration with Jewish Voice for Peace, our invitation to outside speakers, and our advertisement of events on Facebook and through email are different ways that help us reach a wider community.

Special Events Sponsored in 2014:

- April 6: members and others from St. Mark’s attended Theater J’s play *The Admission*.
- May 11: collaborated with the 20s/30s group to host guest speakers Dr. Rochelle Davis and Nour Joudah

of Georgetown University to discuss the situation of refugees in the Middle East.

- June 29: provided an opportunity for people to discuss books on the Middle East they recently read. The group discussed Ari Shavit's *My Promised Land*, Simon Montefiore's *Jerusalem*, and a Washington Post article about American-Jewish groups and their relationships to the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- July: Due to the destruction wrought by Israel's bombardment and invasion of Gaza during the summer, the Vestry approved a special appeal to the congregation for donations to the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza serving as a refuge for civilians and in urgent need of medical supplies to tend the wounded. \$4,700 was sent to the hospital through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which administers the hospital.
- September 14: invited Aziz Abu Sarah, co-executive director of MEJDI tours, to speak; part of the preparation for the 2015 pilgrimage.
- October 4th: sponsored a movie night with mezze, showing *Al Helm (The Dream)* a documentary about an African-American gospel choir that goes to Palestine to sing in a play about Martin Luther King Jr.
- October 19: collaborated with the 20s/30s group to invite Emma Herman and Professor Amos Libby to speak about their experiences volunteering in Hebron last summer. Professor Libby also performed the *oud*. Emma, a student at the University of Chicago, and her parents are members of St. Mark's.
- November 2: invited retired Ambassador Phil Wilcox to provide an historical overview and analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- November 30th—Christmas: Karen Getman organized the sale of Palestinian olive oil, ornaments, and nativity scenes to raise money for the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) organization to support the re-building of Gaza.
- December 3rd: hosted Jewish Voice for Peace for a sell-out event, "Is the Tide Turning for Equal Rights in Israel/Palestine?" Richard Falk, Omar Barghouti, and Rebecca Vilkomerson spoke.
- December 20th: our parishioners attended the Bethlehem/National Cathedral simulcast of the joint service celebrating the link between the Protestant Christians of Palestine and the Episcopalians and Lutherans of Washington.

Ongoing Activities:

- Bi-weekly e-newsletters to MEWG mailing list (St. Mark's members and outside supporters)
- Bi-monthly planning meetings with MEWG executive committee
- Organization of pilgrimage group to travel to Holy Lands in 2015

Honduras Jennifer Dalzell, (Chair) Rita Ossolinski, Julie Murphy, Steve Beste, Betsy & Collie Agle

Background Since '89, we have maintained a connection with rural communities in Honduras. Service trips and direct financial contributions from the Honduras and Outreach Committees have left projects of permanent benefit to our host communities. During the first 15 years, we worked through the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras to, among many things, build desks and benches for three elementary schools and construct church classrooms along the north coast of Honduras. In '06, we shifted our focus to sustainable reforestation around the town of Trinidad, Honduras. In the following years St. Mark's helped spearhead an effort to build an active network of churches and individuals in Washington DC which became known as the Trinidad Conservation Project (TCP). It was then that St. Mark's met Roy Lara, a gifted and passionate educator and agronomist.

Milestones Reached in '14-'15 Teaming up with Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) in July '08, we (as a member of TCP) broadened our outreach goals to include not only reforestation but also sustainable agri-

culture techniques to address malnutrition and hunger and to increase family income. No longer tied to destructive slash-and-burn farming techniques, families in six communities now care for their fields and crops with compost and other local materials so they can use the same plot year after year. No longer eating only beans and rice, the children are now eating more varied and much healthier diet.

Farmers' success at increasing their harvests produced another problem. Precious corn, beans and rice couldn't be stored safely against rats, bugs and humidity. In '13 farmers asked for training and materials to build silos to keep grains healthy to eat and available for sale at better prices. With funding provided by the St. Mark's Outreach Committee, in '14 families built about 15 silos and are now trained to build more. Some families are approaching their local government to see if they can get help with funding for silo construction.

In February '15, the families in the TCP-supported communities reached the final, momentous milestone. They received "graduation certificates" proving they have completed all the requirements of the SHI field program.

Going Forward By the end of June '15, SHI will no longer be working in the SHI/TCP villages. St. Marks, again as a part of TCP, is now searching for an alliance with another U.S. organization that works in rural Honduran villages on issues of sustainable agriculture, personal empowerment, and increase in family income. We hope that we will be able to maintain the connection with both Roy Lara and the villages we have come to know so well. The Committee will be deeply involved in this effort and will report back to the parish on the results of this process.

Testimonials

After completing seven years in the SHI/TCP field program, Doña Cándida Murillo, La Majada, 2014 said, *"The work I have done with SHI-Honduras has opened my eyes to many things. Previously, I only did the kitchen work and the gardening around the home. However, today in the small plot near my house I have cassava, pineapple, green beans and also coriander, mustard, and radishes. From the sale of these crops I earn about \$5 a week. I thank God because many people from my community and neighboring communities come to my house to buy my vegetables and drivers on motorcycle taxis buy from me also. My goal is to sell \$5 of vegetables a day and to have produce to sell year-round. I also have a lot of land I got through the support of SHI/TCP where we have planted corn, beans, and coffee. My son Anthony has dreams of building a house on the plot of land that is two miles from our house here. And also, Antony now wants to go to school to study agronomy and be a professional."*

After attending the graduation program, Stephen Richards, Chair of SHI Board of Directors, wrote *"I was particularly touched by a woman (Maria de Jesus of Laguna Verde) who was in tears when she described all that SHI had done for her and what it meant to her. We also visited a farmer (Don Virgilio Amaya of El Tule) who proudly showed us two silos that he had learned how to build. One was full of corn and the other was going to be filled with rice. He also showed us how he is gradually expanding his small farm by buying small plots of additional land."*

Note: Please watch the downstairs bulletin boards for more information and photographs of the graduation ceremony and the sustainable agriculture and forestry accomplishments that led up to it.

ARTS COUNCIL *Chris Herman, convener*

The Arts Council was created in the early 90s by Rev. Jim Adams who recognized how important the arts had become to the community. He invited the leaders of the Dance Studio, Music Studio, Players, yoga studio, and the Visual Arts Group to convene and organize. The Council was a loose organization until the creation of the pillar program. The members then began meeting regularly to support one another. By the early '00s, the Council was sponsoring several art shows each year along with a well-supported concert series (including organ concerts by the Director of Music Keith Reas and the Chancel Choir with orchestra), as well as publicizing the events of other arts groups. When scheduling became competitive, the Council gathered

all their dates together and the Convener scheduled for everyone. This led to the creation of the all-parish calendaring process. Over the years, several of the groups have lost their strongest leaders (Ellen Cardwel of the Players and David Evelyn of the Visual Arts Group) and the group looks toward re-building their participation and activities in the near future.

Dance Studio *Rosetta "Rosie" Brooks, Artistic Director*

Enrollment: During construction, the Studio saw only some drop off in participation. From our '12-'13 average of 7.5 students per class, we dropped by only 1 per class. We didn't lose many but students reduced their participation from 2-3/week to once a week. This means they were not purchasing as many class cards. Currently, the average is back to the '13 level with many adults returning after the move back. It looks like we are steadily making up that loss.

Spring 2014 We combined the older girl's classes with the adult classes. We tested this out during the Open House of December 2013 and the adults loved it. The July pointe workshop, an intensive program done annually for beginning pointe students, had a good attendance.

We moved out of the nave after the summer sessions, in August but still not able to start on time (September 8) because light fixtures hadn't been installed in the studio. Instead, we started September 22, in an extended space in the undercroft. Everyone was glad to start!

We are still moving back into the studio from Rosie's basement storage and being creative in the way we store equipment. A great closet was built in the studio office, a large cupboard for the interior area of the studio, and a small closet where the stairwell was, which we share with two other groups. Rosie employed one of her high school seniors who needed to earn community service hours for school to assist with storing/moving supplies and it has been most appreciated.

Recitals The Dance Studio recitals, the culmination of our year, were held on Saturday June 7, 2014.

We split up the children's recital because of the renovation but found it was a successful format and are staying with it for the 2015 recitals. The parents loved the shorter version for the younger children and that the children could see other classes performing (we've always had the students wait in the parish hall because of nave capacity). We usually have approximately 350 attending the children's recital with all of the classes participating. In 2014, with the combined recitals we met that number.

Fall registration was held on Friday-Saturday, September 5 and 6 in the baptistery with our vendor setting up shop so we did not disrupt the nave for Sunday services. We also used that time for parents and students to tour the space: everyone loved seeing the results of the construction.

We did not have our annual Open House in December because of the delays in returning to the studio and a lack of time to rehearse and co-ordinate. We will be back on course for 2015.

Participation in Liturgy The Senior Company participated in the re-dedication of the building on Sunday September 28. In celebration of Paul's retirement, 17 dancers from the studio, including many students, our staff, and the Senior and Junior Companies, performed "Jubilation" on January 25, 2015. We are currently planning to participate in Palm Sunday services.

Please come visit our studio and consider taking a class.

Music Studio *Jeff Kempeskie, Director*

The St. Mark's Music Studio offers music lessons and is a modest source of income for the overall church and music program. Jeff Kempeskie and Kellie McHugh continue to offer piano and voice lessons, with 15+ individuals of all ages and levels of ability participating at this time. They held Music Studio recitals in May and January to give students the opportunity to perform for others.

Special Music Events

The construction project resulted in fewer concerts hosted over the past year. Still, we managed to host two early music flute concerts in July. Also, once construction was complete the Washington Early Music Festival did a weekend of concerts at St. Mark's in mid-October. Armonia Nova offered its third annual Twelfth Night/Epiphany concert in early January. Justi and Jeff hosted spring and summer Beer & Hymns as well as a very well-attended Carols & Cocktails hymn-sing in December. These events are intended be fun, community-building activities that might also attract new and younger people to St. Mark's.

Note: see a photo of the new Music Studio piano on page 14

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

2014 was a difficult year financially for the Yoga Center. Despite the best intentions and helpful coordination of St. Mark's staff and Transition Team, the Center had to cancel classes or pay for off-site space from June through September. Our student base dropped to an annual average of 6 students per class, second lowest since records of attendance began being tallied in 1997.

Once back in the church in October, attendance began to rise. The Yoga Center held three well-attended workshops: two with Neela Robinson, a Master Instructor and former Director of the Center who guided workshops on Posture & Structure, and one with Kamla Waltman, a Yoga Nidra Master who led 25 students in Deep Relaxation. The Yoga Center again held a class free to veterans on Veterans Day. The Center closed for holiday break December 20th. Though drawing close to the brink, the Center met its \$1200 use fee obligation to the church and completed its commitment of \$1,000 to the Vision 2020 campaign.

St. Mark's Players *While the Players had a limited year during construction, they were able to mount several productions since the move back. They have also moved into their new space: a storage area behind the Elders' Room and the smaller storage room off Baxter Hall (where the Genie 'lives'). no report*

There are no reports from any other arts groups as most are inactive



Woodcut by David Evelyn

PARISH LIFE, *Pam Lacey, Manager*

Parish Life comprises many of the activities that help us connect to one another in good times and bad. We gather on Sundays for coffee hour or pub lunch to get to know one another better and find out what's going on in our lives. At the parish picnic, Crab Feast, Mardi Gras and other big parties, we do more of that - and we just have fun. Then, when the going gets rough, our hope is that, having gotten to know one another, we will be better able to reach out to offer help and caring in times of need. The purpose of the various groups is not to divide us into silos and interest groups, but to help us connect better by starting with a smaller group of people and expanding to know and care for the broader community.

Despite the challenges, we kept much of this fellowship going during our construction year.

Parish Life Events:

Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner (March) We held our traditional reception and pot-luck dinner. Given construction, we did not have either parish hall or kitchen, but it all went smoothly. The reception was held in the Adams Room while foot washing was available in the nave. And afterward, we had our dinner at tables set up in the nave, followed by a moving Tenebrae Service. *Pam Lacey, leader*

Parish Picnic (Labor Day Weekend) We held a casual pot-luck picnic and games in Garfield Park on the Labor Day Sunday. We held a pot luck picnic in the park and took advantage of the playground equipment and basketball court to have some fun.

Sunday Fellowship Activities

Coffee Hour Greg Smith continued to brew coffee and offer fruit and snacks in the Adams Room after Sermon Seminar and Sunday school classes. Andrew Baisch is now brewing coffee using our new FETCO system for the morning services. We still need teams of volunteers who will clean the equipment after pub lunch. We are also looking for groups who will provide goodies for coffee hour.

Winged Lion Pub Pub Lunch returned Dec. 7 with a “kitchen & pub shower” outfitting the new kitchen and pub. The Pub acquired 40 glasses, two one-gallon drink dispensers, a bar counter mat and dish towels while the kitchen received small appliances and equipment, new potholders, towels, etc. along with lots of utensils. The new space is clean and functional, but several issues remain unresolved: how to secure equipment and inventory (glassware and beverages); acquiring and installing a tap system to serve draft beer; gaining access to Baxter Hall and kitchen during off-hours.

Pam Lacey organized some ‘picnic lunches’ during construction in the nave (cheese, bread, fruit and crudités) to keep our tradition alive. We are happy to report pub lunch tradition is thriving again and can be done without a lot of fanfare: soup and sandwiches or prepared foods, heated in our new kitchen. We still reimburse for food purchases! *Pam Lacey, coordinator til Sept, then Rick Warfield*

The Pub has been open for lunches with Pub Stewards Doug Jackson and Rick Weber working to attract more volunteers and developing a schedule to make the Pub available at more events, particularly following the 5pm service for “Holy Happy Hour.”

The Pub Treasurer reports having sufficient financial resources to operate but it relies on a constant inflow of fresh revenue to be able to restock and outfit the pub as well as meeting our \$1000/year obligation to the parish budget. *Charley Donnelly*

20s/30s It's been an eventful year for us. In May 2014, the group transitioned from the wonderful and energetic leadership of Caitie Whelan to a Council including Jessie Babcock, Alvin Moseberry, Ashley Davis, and Doug Jackson. The Council has been supported by an advisory group: The Rev. Justi Schunior, Caitie Whelan, Marlan Green, and Dan Ramish.

We continued our popular ‘Chewing on Faith’ potluck speaker series that regularly draws dozens of participants. This year the talks touched on a range of subjects including insight meditation, Middle East refugees, Welcome Table (Church of the Epiphany's homeless outreach program), Kids4Peace (an interfaith grassroots youth movement to end conflict in Jerusalem), and DC's Transitional Housing Corporation.

Based on input gathered from a group-wide meeting in March, the Council drafted a charter outlining our values, our commitment to social justice, and our desire for greater engagement with St. Mark's and the broader community. To this end, the group co-hosted two popular collaborations with the Mid-East Working Group, served as a venue for Christian Education's outreach, organized a holiday toy drive for ten children served by the Transitional Housing Corporation, and raised funds and volunteers to sponsor and staff a Welcome Table breakfast and related activities.

Third Agers This is open to parishioners age 60 and older. This year, we held several gatherings in parishioners' homes. About 40-50 us meet fall, winter, and spring, and hold some sort of outing each season. Meet-

ings are comprised of a short social time to catch up with each other; a brief “business meeting” when we discuss possible/planned gatherings/outings; a potluck luncheon, and a program lasting about 1-to-1 ½ hours. Whenever possible, the Jammers (Arnold Taylor, Bill Rau, and John Spaulding) provide wonderful music--old favorites from our (and their!) younger years. *Jane Miller, Barbara Harvey, and Susan Sedgewick conveners,*

Caregivers This group provides assistance to parishioners in the form of calls, visits, prayers, soup, transportation, cards and equipment for parishioners and their families when someone is ill or recovering from surgery. About 20 volunteers are tasked with this work, but all of us can be caregivers. Many of you provide these services for your friends and neighbors without fanfare. There is also a group of Lay Eucharistic Ministers who can offer communion to members who cannot come to church because of illness or infirmity. Until the new rector comes, they will be assisting The Rev. Justi Schunior in this work. *Linda Ewald*

This year we celebrated the lives and deaths of 5 parishioners: William R. Detweiler, Margret Berendes, Winifred Mosher, Charles Marks, William Wachter, and our former Rector, William MacNeil Baxter.

Caregivers Support Group This is a support group for individuals who are providing continuous care for someone in their family. The group has met twice a month since May 2010. The group is kept small, usually five or six members, so that everyone has an opportunity to be heard, and confidentiality is well guarded to assure members the freedom to express aspects of the caretaking situation they may feel uncomfortable discussing elsewhere. *Mary Welker, Pamela Blumgart*

Reading Group We convene the group on the first Monday of every month in the Library. We usually have 5 or 6 for a lively discussion of the chosen book then select the book for next month. The bulletin lists our selections *Linda Ewald*

College of Crustaceans In true Crab fashion and despite entreaties from parishioners, the College refused to hold its annual Crab Feast because of construction. The reigning Crab of 2013, Caitie Whelan, failed to convene the College for our traditional dinner, maintaining our stellar reputation. We are disturbed to report the departure of the Reigning Crab before she can even offer the wildly anticipated ‘State of the Crab’ address, particularly after suffering thru the year of turmoil created by Vision2020. Finally, we sadly note the passing of Crab Winnie Mosher last May.



St. Mark's Film Club The St. Mark's Film Club will celebrate its 15th anniversary in May 2015, so mark May 15, 2015 on your calendar if you are a film club regular. In 2014, we watched a particularly intriguing selection of films, from classics like "Roman Holiday," "Singin' in the Rain," and "The Adventures of Robin Hood," to Hal Ashby films like "Being There," and "Shampoo," to little seen gems like the noir drama, "Gun Crazy," and the Agatha Christie adaptation, "And Then There Were None...".

A complete list of the films we have seen since 2000 is available by contacting Alicia Ruble. Thanks to our intrepid hosts, John and Nancy Yanish, for 15 years of opening their home to movie lovers. *Alicia Ruble*

Woman to Woman This is an ad hoc group to connect women of St. Marks. Because of construction, we did not hold events this year. *Edna Boone, Nancy Lucas*

Lambda Lions Our parish LGBT affinity group, gathered for a summer soiree in July to reconnect and also to remember our dear departed friend, David Evelyn. In October, we hosted Lou Bayard for a book reading and signing in the new Baxter Hall, inviting the parish and Capitol Hill community to join us. 20 guests attended our summer soiree and 60 at the book signing. *Rob Hall, convener*

Lichfield Link Our connection to the people of Litchfield Cathedral (England) is in its 25th year. The “link” was formalized in 1989 as a result of the friendship between Tony Barnard and Jim Adams (11th Rector), as well as two visits by their choir in the 1980s, our pilgrimage to England in '94, our choir's tour to England, 1996, and another Lichfield choir visit in 2002.

We regularly receive reports on Lichfield activities and events, Church of England news, and events in the Midlands. In turn, we send our weekly bulletins and diocesan and city news, especially about the Cathedral. They subscribe to our weekly *Gospel* so kept up with Vision2020 events as well.

We were honored to host The Rev. Canon Tony Barnard (ret.) and his wife, Anne, co-founders of the link, and Patricia and Brian Empsall, St. Mark's reps, for the consecration of our new space. They spent dedication weekend in town, hosted by the Deutsch's and Raiford Gaffney, respectively, traveled to Williamsburg (Barnards) and NYC (Empsalls) before spending a weekend with the Burton's who hosted a small dinner for them on Saturday and a lunch with clergy and staff on Sunday before their return home.

Homestays for St. Mark's parishioners visiting the Midlands is encouraged! *Doris Burton, Link Rep*

Parish Historians and Archives Committee Our historians of long-standing, Bert and Mary Cooper, were honored with the naming of the new archives room in the office suite to commemorate their years of saving photos and documents important to our history. While the archives have yet to be unpacked, we are pleased to report the following:

- With funding from the Endowment Board, we are able to begin protecting historic documents and photos
- All documents/photos stored off-site have been returned and are ready to be either filed or framed and hung
- During the unpacking, a mailing tube 'appeared' containing an original rendering of the church front. Identified as drawn on linen by Ed Corr, typical of the period, this beautiful document will be framed.
- A photo of Rev. Baxter has been appropriately hung in Baxter Hall and accompanied by a new copy of his historic 1963 sermon to President Johnson and framed using archival materials to better preserve and protect the document. This copy has Bill's signature, done just a month prior to his death.
- A stack of the 'Baxter Broadside', unearthed at the beginning of construction are available for small donation to the Archives Committee (these extra copies were to be disposed of and, thanks go to Ed Green, long-time maintenance contractor, who thought better of the idea and stuffed them, in their original box, under the stage.)
- The beautiful new broadside designed by Roland Hoover (who created the Baxter Broadside) commemorating the renovation, was presented to the parish at the dedication service, September 28, and now hangs in a place of honor in the foyer. Research done by Maureen Shea unearthed detailed information about the broadside and led to contact with Mr. Hoover who then offered to design this new document.
- Plans are underway for returning the various plaques and photos to the new walls.
- Plans are underway to have photos of as many rectors as we can locate framed and hung in the new Rectors' Room.
- In the course of packing Baxter House basement, Vestry minutes dating to the very first meeting were located and are now stored in the fire-proof safe in the archives.

The Archives Committee has other plans to bring our history alive and into our new space.

Kenn Allen and Doris Burton, Archives Chairs; Margaret Brown, et al future members



*Baxter House, 118 3rd St. (1984-2011)
Given by Josephine Turner & used as offices
And meeting rooms*



Penniman Room, Baxter House



*The 'Big Dig'now houses 3 new classrooms, the
Choir room & library, a lounge, & new restrooms*



Baxter Hall with the new ceiling/office floor in place

St. Mark's Parish September 28, 2014

