



St. Mark's  
+  
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting  
&  
Report to the Parish  
March 1, 2015– Feb 29, 2016

March 13, 2016

St. Mark's Press  
5th edition

# Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill , 2015-16

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## **CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE**

**March 13, 2016**

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

Stephanie Deutsch, Karen Getman, Thia Hamilton, C. Lena Lupica, Beth Mahood, Bobbi Smith, Shay Wayne

†

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

Jim Steed

†

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

Peter Sherer

†

**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**

Gwen Dilliard, Nora Howell, Mary Thuell, *Members of the Vestry*

Raiford Gaffney, David Willson *Members of the Parish*

The Rev. Michele Morgan and The Rev. Justi Schunior, *ex officio*

# **St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

**10 am Holy Eucharist**

**11: 30 am Lunch** *provided by the Vestry*

**12 pm Annual Meeting**

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order..... The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, Priest-in-Charge**

**Opening Prayer..... The Rev. R. Justi Schunior, Associate Rector**

**Announcement of Quorum ..... The Rev. Morgan**

Approval of the Minutes, 2015 Annual Meeting

**Vestry Election ..... Gwen Dillard, Nominating Committee Chair**

Report of the Nominating Committee

Call for Nominations from the floor

Candidate Speeches/Questions/Response

Balloting

**State of the Parish Address ..... The Rev. Morgan**

**Finance Report ..... Andrew Stafford, Treasurer**

### **Wardens Election**

Report of the Nominating Committee

Call for Nominations from the floor

Candidate speeches

Election

**Vestry: 2nd Ballot, as necessary**

**Proposed Bylaw Amendment..... Peter Sherer, Senior Warden**

Discussion

Vote

**Diocesan Delegate Election ..... Gwen Dillard**

Report of the Nominating Committee

Call for Nominations from the floor

Candidate Speeches

Balloting

**Acknowledgements: Outgoing Vestry/Officers ..... Peter Sherer**

**Closing Prayer and Blessing..... The Rev. Morgan**

**Adjournment**

**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 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.

**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: March 15, 2015

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS CHANGING THE TERM OF WARDENS approved by the Vestry for submission to the Parish, January 31, 2016

The Bylaws of St. Mark's currently define the term of office for Wardens of the Parish as:

#### Article III, Section 404.

**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.

**Proposal:** We offer the following amendment to the Parish Bylaws and request this amendment be placed before the membership on March 13, 2016 (changes in **bold**):

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

*We request this amendment take effect thirty days after the March 13, 2016 Annual Parish Meeting*

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Sherer, Doris Burton  
Wardens



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2015 ANNUAL MEETING**  
***DRAFT – for approval at the 2016 Annual Meeting***

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by the Rev. Justi Schunior, who offered an opening prayer.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** The Associate Rector announced that quorum was met, with 215 voting members in attendance out of 471 total members.

**2014 MINUTES:** The congregation moved to approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting. This was seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Penny Hansen gave an overview of the finances. She noted that two weeks ago there was a Town Hall meeting on finances and recognized the Finance Committee for their hard work. Additionally, Penny announced that Andrew Strafford would be nominated for the position of Treasurer, 2015-16.

Penny reported the Finance Committee submitted a balanced budget in the midst of a year in which the church was unable to predict new building costs or the cost of an Interim Rector. Penny commented that they have put into place a conservative plan. Currently, Penny the budget is balanced at \$872,000 and last year the church had a deficit of \$93,000. With the excellent canvass helping to restore the church’s funds, Penny thinks St. Mark’s will be in a good financial position this year. She commented that the Finance Report is available online and this document provides a comprehensive picture.

**ASSOCIATE RECTOR’S REPORT:** The Rev. Justi Schunior presented her ‘Reflections on Change’. She acknowledged the changes that St. Mark’s will see as the church looks for a new rector over the course of the upcoming year and said that it is hard when the future is uncertain. She called on the parish to give the church a chance while going through this change.

She thanked those who are the outgoing members of the Vestry: Senior Warden Grady Hedgespeth, Junior Warden Michael Summey, and Vestry members Pam Lacey, Amy Kovac-Ashley, and Jim Steed. She thanked Randy Marks, Register, and Penny Hansen, Treasurer, for their service. She recognized Rob Hall, chair of Grady’s Advisory Committee, for his work.

**BY-LAW AMENDMENT:** Vestry member Mary Thuell presented an amendment to the bylaws. The amendment would clarify the definition of membership. The rationale is the recognition that newer members want to contribute to St. Mark’s in a different way rather than through the traditional pledge. These alternate ways of giving can exclude some newcomers from membership.

The amendment would define membership as follows: “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.”

A discussion followed. There were concerns regarding donations to the plate in cash, how this updated definition will look in practice, and methods of affirming one’s wish to be a member.

Mary Thuell said that this change strives to be more flexible and understanding of how people would like to join St. Mark’s. She added that the change, if approved, would take effect at the next annual meeting. Over the course of the upcoming year, the Vestry will work on finalizing the details.

It was moved and seconded to end debate. The question was called, a vote taken by show of hands, and the bylaw amendment passed.

**ELECTIONS:** Vestry member Jim Steed presented the candidates and reviewed the elections process. The Vestry candidates would speak then respond to a question posed by the Nominating Committee regarding the candidates' strategy surrounding an extended loan repayment period or special efforts to pay off a loan in a shorter period of time.

**JUNIOR WARDEN:** Doris Muller-Burton was nominated and seconded. No additional nominations were made. Senior Warden Grady Hedgespeth moved to elect Doris by acclamation. The motion was seconded, Doris spoke about her goals for the year and encouraged parishioners to take responsibility for the building we have worked so hard to build. The questions was called and Doris Muller-Burton was elected to the position of Junior Warden.

**DIOCESAN DELEGATE:** Bill Dickinson was nominated and seconded. No additional nominations were made. Senior Warden Grady Hedgespeth moved to elect Bill by acclamation. The motion was seconded, question was called, and the vote taken. Bill Dickinson was elected Diocesan Delegate.

**VESTRY:** The Nominating Committee submitted the names of Jane Byrne, Thia Hamilton, Doug Jackson, Frank Lloyd, Joe Tarantolo, Christina White, and Karen Wiedemann as candidates for three Vestry positions. There were no nominations from the floor. Each candidate was spoke, then addressed the question provided by the Nominating Committee. Votes were cast by paper ballot. The Nominating Committee announced that Christina White, Karen Wiedemann, and Doug Jackson would fill the Vestry positions.

**SENIOR WARDEN:** The Nominating Committee submitted the names of Peter Sherer and Margaret Wood to compete for the Senior Warden position. There were no nominations from the floor. Both spoke of their goals and responded to a question asking how each would address the financial issues facing the parish following the renovation. Votes were cast by paper ballot. The Nominating Committee announced Peter Sherer would hold the position of Senior Warden.

The Rev. Justi Schunior offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Blair Ford



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

## **REPORT OF THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE**

The Rev. Michele H. Morgan

Well, this has been quite the 8 months in Washington and especially at our little corner of the faith world, St. Mark's. I am beyond happy words that I get to journey with you all as the Priest in Charge and that we all move forward to see what God's preferred future is for our community and for each one of us.

There are two things that Priests get to do with their communities: one is handle the business side of what needs to get done to have a faith community and the other is to think about what might be next, what aspirational thing can we work on together.

We have had a lot of transition this past six months and most of it has had to do with staff turnover and all of getting a little healthier. First off, I am thrilled that The Rev. Justi Schunior is my partner in Ministry, talking care of herself in a whole lot of ways and stepping more deeply into working in the areas of community life that nourish her. Also, Angela Nedd has moved on to pursue a job that has more creativity and fits better with where she wants to end up in her future, Susan Block's job was eliminated as membership moved into the office of the clergy and our long-time bookkeeper left as we re-imagined how we could do our finance in a simpler, more straightforward way. I am grateful to them all as the new staff, Patricia Schans and Diana Church, have started off and we are getting a little leaner and smarter as we do our work.

I want to talk about things that I think are important as the Vestry, Wardens, and staff get thinking what our future looks like:

- We need to be able to tell our personal stories of faith, and rejoice in what God is doing in our lives
- We need to be intentionally inviting. Let us be the instrument that God uses to reach out and invite others into our circle of community and faith
- We hope that we never fail or falter in our commitment to both diversity in membership and to our belief that all are welcome at God's table.
- We hope to never grow lax or lose our passion to worship God "in beauty and in holiness." And let us be fearless in recognizing that many forms of worship reach many kinds of people, and that all these different forms have one aim and purpose: to see beyond our concerns and something greater in the world.
- Our desire always should be to roll up our sleeves and put our best efforts forward in every expression of total ministry, for the work of God is the work of all the people, and in that work we find meaning, satisfaction, growth, new discovery, and joy.

As we move more deeply in the year, let me again say that this is the year that we do some planning, look to our future and as always have some fun together.

## **THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT**

The Rev. Rebecca Justice Schunior

Friends,

This past year has been a turbulent one for me personally and for the church. We said goodbye to our Rector of almost seventeen years just over a year ago. For a short time, I was Priest-in-Charge before we welcomed Michele Morgan as our Interim Rector. While I wouldn't say this has been the easiest of years, it has been a year of significant growth and opportunities for our parish.

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

**Worship & Preaching** I attend monthly meetings of the Liturgy Planning Team to plan worship services and discuss what is working and not working in our liturgical practices.

- ◇ Weekly services: I assist the Interim Rector in presiding/co-presiding and preaching for our weekly worship services, including three services on Sunday and one on Thursdays at noon.
- ◇ Worship in the World: The Liturgy Planning Team and I made a concerted effort to take our worship beyond the walls of the church into the world.
- ◇ During the summer, we partnered with Christ Church+Capitol Hill offering weekly Compline services and a monthly Eucharist in nearby parks. We learned a lot from this effort and hope to continue the tradition this coming summer.
- ◇ During Holy Week, after our traditional Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, we took a service of prayers to the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the Capitol.
- ◇ Ashes to Go: For the fourth year, we offered “Ashes to Go” at Capitol South Metro during both the morning and evening commutes. These are for people who might not have been able to get to church or who haven’t been to church in a long time. More than 130 people received ashes.
- ◇ Creative Worship: St. Mark’s is a lab for liturgy. We continue to experiment with worship that draws us into relationship with others and with God.
- ◇ Our Palm Sunday service incorporated dance, music, and spoken word to dramatize the passion story.
- ◇ September: We experimented with no rota: we didn’t schedule lay people for the various jobs in the service – greeting, lay serving, acolyting, reading, etc. We encouraged people with little or no experience to give these jobs a try in an attempt to expand our volunteer base. Feedback was mixed; some really loved trying out something new, but it was a lot of work for our vergers.
- ◇ Advent Word of the Day: we invited members of the Liturgy Planning Team to write reflections for each day of Advent and coordinated with the Communications Working Group to send these electronically to parishioners.
- ◇ We offered compline services (contemplative evening prayers) in the nave Tuesdays in Advent and Lent.
- ◇ 5 pm Sunday Service: This service is no longer a new part of St. Mark’s: it is fully integrated into the fabric of the parish. Three of our vestry members regularly attend the 5pm. While still targeted towards newcomers, there is a core congregation who thinks of this as their time for regular Sunday worship. The number of children who attend this service has grown and we are seeking ways to families.

### **Teaching**

- ◇ Last spring I assisted teaching the youth confirmation class. We presented ten youth for confirmation at the Cathedral last May.
- ◇ Baptisms: One or both of the clergy meets with the spring and fall baptism classes to assist in instruction. The day before the baptism we meet with the families to rehearse.

### **Pastoral Care**

- ◇ Visitation: I call on parishioners in the hospital and in their homes to provide pastoral support.
- ◇ Counseling: I meet with a number of parishioners to address concerns that affect their personal and spiritual life.
- ◇ Pre-Marital Instruction: I have worked with four couples as they prepare for marriage in the coming year.

### **Membership**

- ◇ I meet monthly with the Membership Committee. With Michele, we reach out to newcomers who provide us with contact information.
- ◇ I have taken over Susan Block’s duties with respect to membership records, including entering contact information and producing the parish directory. We continue to improve our welcome to newcomers and ways to integrate new members into our parish life.
- ◇ Carols & Cocktails: With Jeff Kempeskie, I have hosted Beer & Hymns twice this past year and a holiday event, Carols & Cocktails. These have been popular with longtime parishioners and newcomers.

### **Outreach**

As a member of the Board, I attend monthly meetings and seek new opportunities for community involvement.

- ◇ Capitol Hill Group Ministry: I am involved with various aspects of CHGM work on Capitol Hill including attending the quarterly clergy breakfasts.
- ◇ St. Mark's hosted the Third Annual Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence on December 9, 2015. Previously held at the Cathedral, more than 300 people attended the vigil with another 100+ people who came from across the country to lobby congress for common sense prevention of gun violence. Another 50 people from St. Mark's served as volunteers. The event received extensive coverage in the news. We are already speaking with the Newtown Alliance about next year's vigil to be held December 14, 2016.

### **Communications**

A communications working group was established to meet one our twelve challenges, that of improved parish communication. A new website became a top priority. I meet weekly with a subgroup to implement the new site. I send out weekly E-gospel newsletters and special announcements via Constant Contact.

### **Youth and Family Ministries**

I served on the committee that discerned a new direction for youth and family ministries and assisted in interviewing candidates. We hired Caroline McReynolds-Adams who began her work with us in August.

- ◇ Children's Chapel: With Caroline and Michele, I lead Children's Chapel during the 9am service. This service is for small children to introduce them to liturgy and return to the nave in time for Eucharist. Once a month we hold a family service with a children's reflection and liturgy crafted for young people.

I want to thank the St. Mark's community for your unwavering support during one of my most challenging years. I have been overwhelmed by your compassion and understanding. It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as your priest. This unique faith community inspires me on my own faith journey and I enjoy walking with you on yours. I look forward to working with you as we start a new chapter at St. Mark's.

### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Jeff Kempskie

The music program had yet another successful year. The Chancel Choir continues to benefit from the presence of a tenor section leader while also expanding its repertoire and refining its sound. The Handbell Choir put together two pieces in the spring and three this past fall. The Boys & Girls Choir has a new director and is larger than ever, plus we've just formed a new Teen Choir! We've also made progress in better-integrating music from Christian Ed classes into the 9:00 services.

### **Chancel Choir**

The Chancel Choir remains healthy and continues to evolve. The paid tenor section leader position, currently filled by Adam Caughey, has been included in the 2016 budget. This is a significant happening and will ensure that the choir can consistently sing regular four-part harmony and maintain its high standards. The group sang a Choral Evensong service in May, Paul Winter's *Earth Mass* in the beginning of October, a well-attended Advent Lessons & Carols service in December, and another Choral Evensong service in early February. The group is in the initial stages of planning a choir tour to England.

### **Boys & Girls Choir**

The Boys & Girls Choir (BGC) was under the direction of volunteer director Nadine Hathaway last spring. One sign of success has been the continued participation of four children for four or more years, a consistency and continuity that the group had in recent years. Two of those choristers, Annadora Garner and Kyle Lloyd, attended the Royal School of Church Music Summer Camp (partially supported by St. Mark's) and further honed their singing skills. The increasing demands of the Discernment & Search Committee forced Nadine to take a break from her BGC leadership in the fall. Fortunately, we were able to hire a new BGC Director, Libbi Rivera, in early September. The BGC began the fall season with its fifth annual choir re-

treat and joined the Chancel Choir in singing part of the *Earth Mass* in early October. The choir gained many new, young faces and now has 17 children on the roster!

### **Teen Choir**

The combination of having older, more experienced singers and an influx of new, younger, and less experienced choristers in the BGC prompted the idea to create a Teen Choir. Having finished her duties on the DSC, Nadine Hathaway volunteered to work with the preteens and teens in the BGC in a separate group with the purpose of offering the kids more age-appropriate challenges. Instead of older children dropping out of the BGC and no longer participating in the music program, as has typically happened in the past, the Teen Choir is intended to give those children a place to continue their musical development and growth. The group is rehearsing approximately every other week during the same time as the BGC.

### **Handbell Choir**

The Handbell Choir had successful performances last April (for Easter) and in early June. A subset of the group learned a piece this past fall that was intended to develop the musicianship and ringing skills of the newer members, a task that was somewhat successful. The full group performed two pieces in December reasonably well. However, the inability to find more participants, coupled with significant differences in ability level and spotty attendance, caused me to decide to put the group on hiatus as of January to re-think how the group is run and to examine when it makes most sense to rehearse and perform.

### **Instruments**

The Holtkamp organ remains in fairly good working order with only minor problems over the past year. The acoustic pianos in the nave, Baxter Hall, and the Music Studio receive regular use and continue functioning well, as do the church's three digital pianos.

### **Special Music Events**

I was invited to compose music for piano and cello and teamed up with Rosie Brooks of the Dance Studio to create special choreography to accompany the 'Passion Reading' on Palm Sunday, an idea originally conceived by Jessie Babcock. Justi and I hosted another successful 'Beer & Hymns' event in June. Shortly after her arrival, Michele Morgan invited the Nightingale Trio to sing Eastern European songs during a morning service in July. We hosted a Capitol Hill Chamber Music Festival concert in late July. We hosted another 'Carols & Cocktails' (and 'mocktails') hymn sing in mid-December. The annual Twelfth Night/Epiphany Concert with Armonia Nova took place in early January. Lastly, the church hosted a concert by Cantate Chamber Singers and Bowen McCauley Dance Company in late February.



*Earliest photo of a St. Mark's Men & Boys Choir, 1900, when St. Mark's was the pro-Cathedra of the diocese, taken in what became known as the 3rd St. Parking.*

## **Youth & Family Ministries**

*Caroline McReynolds-Adams, Director*

Spring and summer 2015 was a time of exciting transition for the Youth and Family Ministries program. Thanks to the dedicated work of passionate parents led by Pam Lacey, the much-loved events and programs that have become cornerstones of our strong youth ministry were sustained and championed, even in the absence of a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Under the leadership of Steve Dalzell, a group of passionate parents and parishioners led a dedicated and intentional search for the new Director while working with clergy and the parish as a whole to envision a sustainable future for this ministry.

After my arrival as the new Director in August, I spent the fall listening to and learning about this community. Stepping into such a well-established program allowed space and opportunities for me to get to know children, youth, parents, and parishioners while learning the ins and outs of the existing ministry. The Youth Advisory Committee convened by Julie Murphy provided immeasurable support and guidance, as did the numerous parents who reached out for one-on-one coffee meetings and youth who shared impromptu ice cream, donuts, and conversation.

In this New Year, we have broadened our work to reach beyond the sole maintenance of current programming in order to continue conversations about strategic visioning for the Youth and Family Ministries program. Towards this goal, we have formed the Youth Activities Board—an entity that consists of 9 dedicated parents and parishioners who each hold a liaison position connecting them to a specific area of the YFM program: outreach, parish life, youth events, family events, worship, Sunday school, and the Vestry. This group assists the Director in planning, organizing, and executing events and programs with the specific goal of integrating youth and children with the five pillars of the larger parish community.

In addition to the Youth Activities Board, we are in the process of putting together a Sunday School Planning Group. This group, with considerable input from wider community, will seek to connect youth and children's Christian education offerings (Catechesis, Confirmation, Functional Education, and more) in a way that creates a strategic arc of spiritual journey for our children and youth. By preserving the best of what youth Sunday school classes have offered and being open to other alternatives, this group will seek to form a more intentional approach to Sunday school curriculum in a way that connects the child's experience of their spiritual journey from year to year.

We will ensure that St. Mark's is a welcoming, cohesive, and intentional space of spiritual formation for children and youth for years to come through 1) maintaining the robust, formational programming already in existence (lock ins, retreats, parish life events), 2) introducing new programming to continue building meaningful community (Family Fellowship events, youth outreach opportunities, parents groups), and 3) working hard to intentionally define the overarching structure and purpose of the YFM ministries program.

### **2015 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **WORSHIP**

**Family Eucharist:** This year we have continued to offer a monthly family Eucharist at the 9 o'clock service on the second Sunday of each month, providing children and youth with the opportunity to read the liturgical lessons, distribute bulletins as beadles, lay serve, and participate in a children's reflection following the gospel.

**Children's Chapel:** We offer Children's Chapel liturgy under the rotating leadership of Michele Morgan, Justi Schunior, and me. Meeting every Sunday at 9, this 'kid-friendly' service is designed for children, ages two through six, and encourages participation, ritual, shared prayer, and singing. This fall, we incorporated an offering in Children's Chapel as a way to jump-start conversations about how important it is to give back to our community. At the end of this Sunday school year, the children will have the opportunity to make a collective decision about how the money will be used (donated to non-profit, given to

social justice cause, added to the Capital Campaign, etc.).

**Christmas Pageant:** This December we celebrated our traditional Christmas Pageant, which was organized and produced under the excellent leadership of our Mother-of-Mary, Deanna Garner, and Mother-of-Joseph, Lori Ann Madhok. With assistance of a dedicated cadre of helpful parents, nearly 50 children and youth were able to participate this year.

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Sunday School:** The director of Youth & Family Ministries serves as a resource for the Sunday School Program and teachers through coordinating and compiling registration for students and offering support for teachers in regards to teaching materials/curricula ideas and assisting with general weekly needs.

**Non-Sunday School Sundays:** Family Fellowship Events (see below) and New Year Kickoff Youth Breakfast with photo scavenger hunt in January for Middle and High School youth.

#### **MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL**

**High School Fall Retreat:** 8 high schoolers participated in the September Retreat at Blue Ridge Summit in northern Maryland. We spent the weekend relaxing and getting to know one another while playing board games, making homemade pizza, eating lots of Oreos on the back porch, and working on an art project that spurred conversations about new beginnings and the stories we want to tell for ourselves this year.

**Middle School Day Retreat:** 11 middle schoolers participated in the October Day retreat where we drove to the Corn Maze in The Plains, VA and enjoyed an afternoon of autumn-themed activities including pumpkin picking and decorating, getting extremely lost in a corn maze, catapulting pumpkins across a field with a pumpkin sling shot, and eating lots of pizza.

#### **OUTREACH**

**Mountain Stewards High School Summer Service Trip (July):** 9 teens participated in the Mountain Stewards program from July 25-30. They participated in a combination of environmental stewardship service projects (e.g., trail building, erosion control, water sampling), environmental education/appreciation, and fun in the outdoors (e.g., rock climbing, hiking, streams, stargazing). The teens will camped outdoors in tents for four nights and spent their last two nights in yurts at the Spruce Knob institute

**Light the Night Walk to End Lymphoma and Leukemia (October):** To offer support to the family of Henry Burneson, 15 youth and their families participated in the walk at Freedom Plaza as part of Team Henry. Collectively, St. Mark's teens raised over \$5,000 to fund research for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

**CHGM Family Night (December):** Youth & Family Ministries coordinated with the Outreach Pillar to purchase toys and books for shelter family children. After shopping and wrapping the gifts, Middle and High schoolers volunteered at Family Night helping to set up, decorate, and serve as Santa's elves to deliver the gifts to the over 20 children present.

#### **FAMILY & PARISH LIFE EVENTS**

The following is a list of various events that were held over the course of the year. These activities are largely made possible by generosity of time and spirit of parents and other volunteers.

o**Annual Family Ski Trip** – A weekend trip for families in West Virginia's Canaan Valley. Thirty-seven participants of all ages (from 5 to 70) attended in 2015 over Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend in January.

o**Easter Activities** – Egg Hunt & family activities

o**Annual Parish Weekend**– Youth and Family ministries had one of the breakout rooms and generated a healthy discussion on hopes and expectations for the program in the coming year. The nursery was open and supervised games were offered in Garfield Park; however, no one signed up, so the youth activities were canceled. A few children and teens were on hand to join the adults for lunch and square dancing in the Nave.

o**Parish Picnic** – Children's carnival games, face painting, water balloon toss, etc.



o**Halloween Dance**— Children’s arts and crafts and movie watching at the dance.

o**Family Fellowship Events**- Post-Sunday School time of fellowship for all children/youth and their families: Ice Skating at Canal Park in Navy Yard (Nov.) and Holiday Train Exhibit at Botanical Gardens (Dec.).

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

●**Weekly Youth E-News**—An e-newsletter with news, updates, program details, and more is sent out to all youth and families every Tuesday.

●**Text Updates**—Through remind.com, we have established text groups so that parents and youth can be easily reached to communicate last minute information and reminders

●**Parents Meeting**—Three times a year during the 10am hour parents meet with the Director to go over program schedule for the upcoming months, volunteer needs, and other important YFM information. First meeting was held on Feb. 7 to cover winter and spring programming.

### **SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT**

*Peter Sherer*

2015 was a demanding year for the parish as the Vestry needed to call and then successfully integrate an Interim Rector into the life of the congregation. We were wonderfully fortunate to call Michele Morgan who joined us in June and was immediately admired by the parish. Michele’s authenticity, interpersonal and managerial skills went a long way to reduce the natural anxiety during our clergy transition.

The primary function of an Interim Rector is to prepare the congregation to make the arrival smoother for a new permanent Rector. In our case, this meant completing a thorough review of all our administrative systems with a special focus on our financial processes. Under Michele’s guidance, Patricia Schans was hired to manage our financial systems with the support of an outside accounting firm. We said goodbye to Susan Block and Warren O’Hearn who served us faithfully for many years and to Angela Nedd who came on board just as the staff moved into trailers and then the new building. The new financial team, with the support of the Finance Committee of the Vestry and our auditor, completed audits for 2013 and 2014 well ahead of our schedule last year.

At the end of the Vision 2020 campaign, the church negotiated two lines of credit with the National Capital Bank. One for \$350,000 that is being retired by collecting remaining Vision 2020 pledges this year. The other line of credit for \$1,000,000 will remain in force until combinations of unrestricted bequests and a capital campaign sometime in the future retire the debt. Both lines of credit needed to be extended for another year. The confidence of the bankers in our new financial team is proving crucial to the success of the negotiations that will be completed in March.

The Discernment and Search Committee continued to ably lead the hunt for a new Rector. In December, the committee recommended four candidates to the Vestry who continue to be evaluated as of the time of this report.

Among the highlights of the year were two very generous bequests honoring beloved members of the congregation, Bert Cooper and Suella Henn. The \$100,000 Cooper bequest will enable us to better protect all the stained glass windows in the Nave. Suella’s bequest of \$60,000 will help to build a rain garden that will be both beautiful and environmentally appropriate. The bequest will also allow the church to retire \$30,000 on one of our lines of credit. Both gifts remind us all how generous Bert and Sue Ella were and how much we will continue to miss them.

In June, in response to diminished interest in going to Shrine Mont, we held an on-site, day-long conference we called ‘Shrine Mont on the Hill’. It was very successful as more than 150 parishioners reviewed 12 challenges facing the church and created plans to meet them. Based on the responses to a survey about plans

for next year' the Vestry approved having the parish-wide planning retreat for 2016 at The Claggett Retreat Center near Frederick, Maryland. The hope is that its closer proximity and less expensive facilities will encourage a large turnout.

We were fortunate to have Michael Townsend and Nora Howell lead another successful canvass that raised more than \$800,000. This was especially challenging because we continue to lose major donors each year as they move or retire. It is clear that the Vestry needs to develop a long-term financial strategy to sustain the church that will require a sophisticated membership development component.

No report of the year would be complete without special notice of the work of the Junior Warden, Doris Burton and the Fabric Committee led by Manciple, Jack Burton. The Vision2020 renovation was a stunning success but also made both of these positions more complex as our approach to maintenance services needed to be completely overhauled. While the details will be outlined elsewhere, we are all grateful that the numerous contracts that serve to keep our complex space clean and in good working order will be provided more efficiently and cheaply this year.

Finally, I want to thank a competent and very hard working Vestry for meeting the challenges we faced this year with grace and good humor. And I want to thank the hundreds of you who volunteered for big jobs and small that made it possible to continue to build the friendships that are the glue of our community.

#### **JUNIOR WARDEN**

*Doris Muller-Burton*

The position of Junior Warden is undefined in national church canons and only vaguely in those of the diocese: "The Wardens shall have such authority and shall perform such duties in the management of the property and affairs of the parish as are provided by the canons of the Diocese and General Convention and the bylaws and resolutions of the Vestry not inconsistent with those canons."

Even our own bylaws, found elsewhere in this document, do not explicitly charge the Junior Warden with the care of our building. It is tradition, custom, practice-- and those alone that assign that task to the Junior--and not Senior Warden.

Our Junior Wardens, then, would have a difficult task were it not for the wisdom of re-activating a Fabric Committee in 2014, called 'Property' in other parishes, to assist them. Without the stalwart members of this committee, I would assuredly have been overwhelmed months ago. So it is with the greatest of thanks, I name the people who have stood by and helped me, untiringly and unceasingly, throughout this year:

*Jack Burton:* Manciple, Fabric Co-Chair, '15-'16; JW, '03-'05; Manciple, '05-'06; V2020 Transition Co-Chair

*Nora Howell:* Vestry, '13-'16; Fabric Co-Chair '14-'15; Vestry Rep to V2020

*Jack Richards:* JW, '08-'09; Manciple, '07-'08

*Charlie Rupp:* JW, '90-'92; Manciple '03-'05; V2020 Steering, Transition Team

*Pete Eveleth:* JW, '80-'82,

*Fritz Henn:* Vestry '14-'17; Vestry Rep to V2020;

*Kenn Allen:* Co-Chair, Vision 2020

*Christina Herman:* Green Lions

*Ben Schaibly:* Garden

*Andy Wenchel:* Architect

*Rick Warfield*

It is also highly appropriate for me to thank Peter Sherer, Senior Warden, for his unfailing support as I have struggled to make order out of the significant changes to this job. It has been fun...and an honor and privilege to work with him and I look forward to another year with great anticipation.

While there is still a way to go, there is light—and hope for the next Junior Warden.

The 2014-15, Fabric Committee set before itself a significant number of tasks, some of which are complete, some underway, some fallen by the wayside, and some not yet begun. This is where those projects stand:

**RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH GREEN'S MAINTENANCE:** This work began under the leadership of Michael Summey (JW, '13-'15) and Nora Howell. Nora saw this to its conclusion, July 2015, with significant input from the rest of the Committee. The new contract was very specific about the old and new tasks spelling out (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, semi-annual and annual tasks) what the new building would require. A list of tasks are posted in the lounge. David Durant and Keith Green, the faithful workers, reported the amount of time required to do the tasks and how frequently they were able to do them given the number of interruptions to their schedule.

The new, formal contract was for a 6-month period (July 17, 2015-January 17, 2016) at which time Green's Maintenance went on a month-to-month basis. January 29, 2016, we issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) to three additional companies interested in bidding on the job of caring for our building. The RFP was the result of the Fabric Committee Working Group (FCWG); Nora Howell, Lead; Pete Eveleth, Charlie Rupp, Penny Farley, and Nat White along with the JW and Manciple.

The RFPs were submitted by February 29 after which time the FCWG, w/o votes of JW and Manciple, will recommend to Michele and Peter, the company which they feel will best care for our space.

**PROJECTS:** Last year's report listed nine areas to be assessed, prioritized, and acted upon as money, time, and energy allowed. The following is an update on those we have attacked:

a. Stained glass windows: Evaluated during Vision2020 in hopes we would have money to do the needed work—and we didn't. Following the death of Bert Cooper, JW '63-'65, his widow, Mary, informed the Vestry of an exceedingly generous bequest of \$100,000 designated for the windows and other historic preservation projects. With the Vestry's acceptance of the gift, we moved ahead with selecting a company to do the work. We are pleased to announce that Associated Crafts of Phoenix, AZ, will begin work on our windows this summer. All the Plexi-glass and Lexan covers will be removed, the frames scraped, repaired, and repainted; leading will be re-cemented as needed, cracks in the glass repaired, then laminated and vented glass protective covering will be installed. The work will require about three weeks and will involve the installation of a dumpster in the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. garden.

These new covers will provide the weather protection we need and will last about 50 years. At that point, additional work will be needed on the frames but the glass can be cleaned and replaced, unlike the Lexan and Plexiglas that discolors and affects the visual brilliance of the windows.

b. Nave floor: The re-buffing/re-coating of the floor was the plan of the Transition Team to follow construction. After discussion, we decided to use a harder polyurethane than previously, a product called 'Street-Shoe'. The work was done in July but needed repairs were not done due to a communications breakdown. My hope is the repairs will be dealt with this summer. To our disappointment, Street-Shoe did not prove to be any better when tape was used on the floor (as is needed by the Dance Studio for recitals). While the Players tried out a reflective paint that served, tape is still needed by the dancers and there seems to be little resolution to this problem. We continue to investigate possible solutions.

c. Nave Leaks: When Mary Cooper reported wet hymnals by the tower door, it was clear we needed to move swiftly to resolve a problem evidenced by that as well as the efflorescence on the walls. We called Wagner Roofing, the company that replaced the slate roof in the 1980s and deals with historic properties. We learned the gutters on the nave are likely original making them well over 100 years old. Combining funds from Historic Preservation and the Hoitsma Endowment, we had a new copper gutter installed on the west side of the nave. Temporary repairs were done on the east side, not in as bad condition. The original gutter shield was not touched, only the liner, likely tin or lead. The east side will need to be done at some later date.

d. Cement Work: Heavy June rains had washed garden mulch down the steps, blocking the drain and allowing water to flow under the library door, soaking the new carpet and threatening to damage the new furni-

ture. While cement work was being done to install window wells outside the library, along with a pad for the new mailbox and one under the exterior garden faucet, the broken and hazardous sidewalk was replaced as well and landscape ties installed along the walk to prevent further garden run-off. The shop-vac manned by Kenn Allen and Nora Howell, took care of most of the water, floor fans dried the carpet but a mitigation company was called to complete the work and insurance coverage covered these expenses. The other dangerous sidewalk, outside the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. tower exit, is city property and we are investigating a way to get that repaired.

Assess and transition to environmentally friendly cleaning products: Member Christina Herman, with input from the Green Lions, led this. She ordered appropriate products and trained the workers in their use which continues (see Green Lions report/Outreach).

Kitchen: Susan Sedgewick and Jack Richards completed the work on a handbook for kitchen users, both renter and parishioner. This was an enormous task and involved collecting information about all the new appliances and how they are to be used as well as direction for food safety. Both the handbook and the appliance manual are in the kitchen. However, it quickly became clear that managing this part of the building requires more time than any Junior Warden can give. This truly needs its own manager, a position I have yet to fill. Interested parties are welcome to apply.

#### 5. Other Projects:

- ◆ *Community Purchasing Alliance (CPA):* Last year's members researched this non-profit organization committed to finding businesses who can provide services at lower cost to non-profits and led to a new trash hauler saving the parish significant dollars. Tenleytown trash now collects both trash and recycling for a mere \$127/month compared to the \$717.34/month we were paying. This saving alone allowed us to join CPA (\$1500 + \$200/year) and we expect to benefit from future savings.
- ◆ *Garden:* After the recent construction, our courtyard garden looked very sad, having been badly trampled by three trailers and too much foot traffic. Saturday, May 18, parishioners came together to work on the gardens for nearly eight hours. There were 18 individuals working in teams to some perennials and weeding (removing bags and bags of ivy along the parking lot wall), edging and cookies so all could admire the polished garden.  
In addition, individuals have worked independently from time to time to augment group efforts. Subsequent activities include the planting of rhododendron shrubs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> St gardens at the entry steps to the library, a gift from Janice Brown in honor of those who have helped her during her bout with cancer; and the planting of a camellia by the Vestry in the small spot next to the Baxter Hall in memory of Suella Henn. We've also seen the return of passion flower vines along the fences around the courtyard, part of the original landscape plan.  
The Garden Committee, ad hoc at best, is in search of new leadership. Ben Schabily has been acting for several years, but not physically able to continue in this role. If anyone would like to volunteer for this wonderfully rewarding endeavor, please contact Doris or Ben for transfer of the ceremonial trowel.
- ◆ *De-trashing:* Left-behind construction items, unneeded furnishings, and debris cluttered up some of the storage space. On a Fabric workday, members hauled out old windows, drywall, wood, and other materials amounting to two truckloads. Thanks for the loan of Marlan Green's truck and driver Susan Sedgewick's trips to the dump.
- ◆ *Storage assignments:* The new storage area in Baxter Hall had shelving but little order. Manciple Jack Burton continues to organize and re-pack items looking for maximum use of this space. Groups needing storage should contact the JW or Manciple.
- ◆ *Storage for center crosses:* Always a storage issue, these hung in the chapel anteroom during construction and now needed a 'home'. The Manciple designed and installed storage racks for all the crosses, including the Children's Processional, as well as new racks for the liturgical items. All now have their own place in the Sacristy (the Advent wreath still presents storage issues but...)

- ◆ *Squirrels in the chapel roof:* Parish Administrator Angela Nedd and Director of Music Jeff Kempskie reported scurrying sounds above the chapel. The squirrels that had found their way into the crawl space were humanely removed and their access sealed.
- ◆ *Liturgical furniture:* The small lectern (known as on the 'Epistle' side—as opposed to the pulpit, or 'Gospel' side) was reported to be wobbly and undependable as a support for the new lectern Bible given by Jim Steen. It was removed for repairs and temporarily replaced with the large Eagle lectern, a memorial to Rev. Floridus Steele (our first rector), cleaned and polished by Altar Guild members Bob & Anne Headley and Mary Jo Detweiler. The lectern was returned the day of the Annual Meeting, March 13, after being repaired and fully restored by parishioner Wayne Johnson.  
The three-seat Sedalia bench, dating to the early 1900s, remains cracked and out of use for the foreseeable future as it is not needed as it was in the past.
- ◆ *Leaks:* We had two small leaks in the pipes in the old undercroft. They were installed during construction (1990-1992) will continue to present problems because new clean-water regulations have eliminated the minerals that used to serve as a protective coating on the pipes. While one leak was repaired, the other was minute. It is the opinion of Charlie Rupp that, at some point in the undetermined future, we will need to replace the pipes in this part of the building.
- ◆ *Nave Condenser:* In July, we lost air conditioning along the east side of the nave. The condenser had been patched in the past four years yet the underlying problem was not resolved. I determined we must do the work to make certain the unit functioned at its max. At a cost of \$6700, the expansion valve on the air handler was replaced and the unit given a clean bill of health.
- ◆ *New Freezer:* Much to our chagrin, our new freezer died in November. Inspection and repair determined that, because the unit required a dedicated circuit that was not installed during construction, the compressor was overloaded and malfunctioned. Because it had been a 'best-price' purchase, the warranty had expired and we had to pay \$1853 for its replacement. Additionally, another \$1000 was spent to install two additional circuits to protect this unexpected investment and our second fridge from potential damage.
- ◆ *Security/Locks:* These continued to plague us for several months, especially the closer on the nave door. Charlie Rupp oversaw this work on several occasions including repairs to the nave door lock that had been stripped and the pub barn door whose lock was broken by a renter.

#### **ADDITIONAL JW ITEMS:**

1. Space Use Board (SUB)/Rentals: This was an assignment I inherited and failed to see to a satisfactory end. This body was created to offer room to non-profits in need of long-term rental space. The SUB contacted a list of 200+ possible renters, hoping some could benefit from our new space. The only organization showing promise was Capitol Hill Group Ministries (CHGM), interested in renting the Gregory Room (off Adams). However, despite the efforts of Michael Knipe, liaison to CHGM, and Charlie Rupp, our tech advisor, CHGM was unable to resolve in-house issues and conclude the deal. The few groups who did contact us about our space did not qualify for a variety of reasons: one wanted to use our kitchen to teach cooking (we have no license for that) and another wanted to use Baxter Hall for an indoor soccer camp, etc.  
While the SUB met several times under my leadership, the lack of progress toward its charge left it inactive.

The assignment of building rentals was also given to the Junior Warden under the last administration as an extension of the SUB work. I took this on with assistance from PA Angela Nedd, updating the event contract, drafting a new version for simpler rentals, attempting to establish a fee schedule, and began fielding rental requests. To my chagrin, I learned this work required hours and hours: responding to emails, checking the parish calendar, negotiating event changes, and showing the building. Despite the effort to create a fee schedule, setting rental fees was very complex and first set through guesswork. Even with all this assistance, the work consumed more time than was realistic. With the departure of Angela at the end of January, Diana Church assumed this task and a fee schedule was finally established in February thanks to the template created by the Manciple and edited by Michele and Diana.

2. Monarc Service Contract is the one accomplishment I am most pleased to report. Since 2008 and because of Jim Michael's (JW, '07-'08) forethought, we have had service contracts on our HVAC, elevator, boiler, fire alarms, and sprinklers (interior and garden). Each had a monthly fee and work had to be scheduled and monitored by the JW or his/her designee. Beyond these, when repairs on other parts of the fabric were needed, the JW was required to find the best-price contractors to take care of them. While each JW developed a list of potential contractors, some went out of business leaving the next JW to find a replacement. Just finding someone to remove the 24" of snow in January took nearly 4 hours of phone calling and emailing. I quickly recognized that, for a working person to manage this was far too time-consuming.

Last June, the project manager for our construction reported the company offered an over-arching service contract to cover our needs including providing the contractors to do general maintenance work (repairs). Jack B., Charlie, Nora and I met with their rep and were excited at the prospect of making the JWs job more manageable. When the budget was being developed, I proposed to Finance that some JW funds could be re-allocated to the Service Contract account to cover the additional cost. By accepting that, the Finance Committee has literally breathed new life into the Junior Warden. Monarc sets a yearly schedule for the inspection of nearly all our systems (a service agreement for the elevator is already in place so remains separate from this) and will evaluate the building annually, providing the JW with a list of any problems they uncover. In addition, nearly all contracting work—electrician, plumber, general repairs—as well as emergency service is available to us at less cost than if we contracted a business on our own.

Every homeowner knows the time it takes just to find a business let alone then manage the work. With this contract, I believe we have reached a new level of care for our building and I am extremely grateful for the support of Fabric, Finance, and the Senior Warden in accomplishing this.

3. Rain Garden: A portion of the generous bequest from Suella Henn was designated for the installation of a rain garden in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Parking (a name dating to the 1890s as a park-like area where the Men & Boys Choir posed for annual photographs). Formerly an English cottage garden created by Kathryn Powers, it was destroyed by the excavations during the undercroft construction of 1990-91 and then again when it held storage trailers during V2020. Fritz Henn has begun the research to get the work done in two phases: hard scaping installed in the spring/early summer and plants added in the fall.

4. Class/Event Signup board: The need was brought to our attention following the parish retreat and the Fabric Committee continues to wrestle with ways to accommodate this. Although there is the pull-out desk for parish wide event signups, the concern is for classes/smaller events. While the Information Board provides clipboards, we had complaints that they are too low, out of sight. Several groups have posted the sheet directly on the acrylic panels detracting from the board. We have ruled out installing anything on the old brick wall as it was not restored or the brickwork sealed and the mortar and bricks too unstable. We are reluctant to install bulletin boards because they get messy and are often left unattended. We know that a new website is in the works and will have electronic registration capabilities. We have deferred a decision on this until we see how the electronic system works.

***In addition to the above, the JW is also responsible for the following:***

**The St. Mark's Columbaria** Penny Hansen, coordinator

The original columbarium (now known as the Nave 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<sup>1</sup>. Vestry member Ron Kolanowski 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 in 1930). The chapel had been converted into the Myrth Library in 1980 by enclosing the back part of the chapel with the wood and glass wall. It was named in honor of the woman who had preserved most of our early history.

In 2000, the vestry voted to install a new columbarium (subsequently known as the Chapel Columbarium) containing 196 niches and to re-consecrate the Chapel of the Nazarene in which it would be located. The

completion of the joint project would take 10 years and involve the work of six Junior Wardens and numerous interested parishioners.

With drawings by Bell Architects from initial designs created by Manciple John Edwards ('01-'02), Junior Warden Jack Burton ('03-'05) initiated an engineering study to be sure the floor could support the weight of the unit. Junior Warden Charley Donnelly ('05-'07) began the installation in 2006 and Junior Warden Jim Michael ('07-'08) improved the space with brickwork surrounding the columbarium unit, new and restored lighting and heating fixtures, restoration and painting of the existing coffered ceiling, cleaning of the brick walls, terracotta, and refinishing of the floors in both the entrance area and the Chapel itself.

New and existing furnishings were coordinated under the leadership of Penny Hansen in '09 with funds from the Linda Barnes bequest. In keeping with the existing liturgical furnishings in the nave, a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Victorian planter was found, rebuilt in part, restored, and placed in the chapel as an altar. The Rau family donated a Coptic rug purchased in Egypt in the 1960s. Well-known wood artist and parishioner Linda Smith-Bugge was commissioned to carve a wooden cross that echoed the beautiful stained glass window portrayal of Jesus carving a cross that has adorned the chapel since 1931. Junior Warden Jack Richards ('08-'10) established operating procedures for the new columbarium in '09 and the space was re-dedicated as The Chapel of the Nazarene by the Rev. Paul Abernathy in May. A small sign was placed at the entrance stating:

**The St. Mark's Chapel of the Nazarene**

This Chapel exists for contemplation and prayer by individuals and for small services.

Please respect the quiet nature of this space.

Initial funding for the project came from pre-sales of niches conducted by the long-time Columbarium Coordinator, Winnie Moser (JW, '97-'99), during the construction period ('06-'07). The Endowment board granted an interest-free loan of \$32,300 in 2008 to complete the project. The loan is being repaid through the sale of niches. In '15, 19 niches were sold for a total of \$22,000, reducing the amount due on the loan to \$4540. Sales in 2016 have resulted in retirement of the loan and will begin to produce income for the operating budget.

The St. Mark's Columbaria are operated under a standard agreement document approved by the Vestry updated in October '14. Purchase rights are reserved for St. Mark's parishioners and their close relatives. Niches are available for \$1200. Those interested in further information should contact the Columbarium Coordinator, Penny Hansen at [pennyhansn@aol.com](mailto:pennyhansn@aol.com)

**Historic Preservation** Doris Burton, convener

This Committee grew out of the need to preserve the most historic part of our building with the bulk of its funding, originally 'Save the Nave Fund' came from a \$25K bequest from Linda Barnes (SW, '93-'95). Jim Michaels (JW, '07-'08) changed the format to the HPC (with members Coopers and Bart Barnes) that would work with the Junior Warden on various projects. The Committee oversaw repairs to the frame of the Tiffany window and to the glass in one portion of the Wayfarers window. Beyond that, it had no formal structure and has not been convened since.

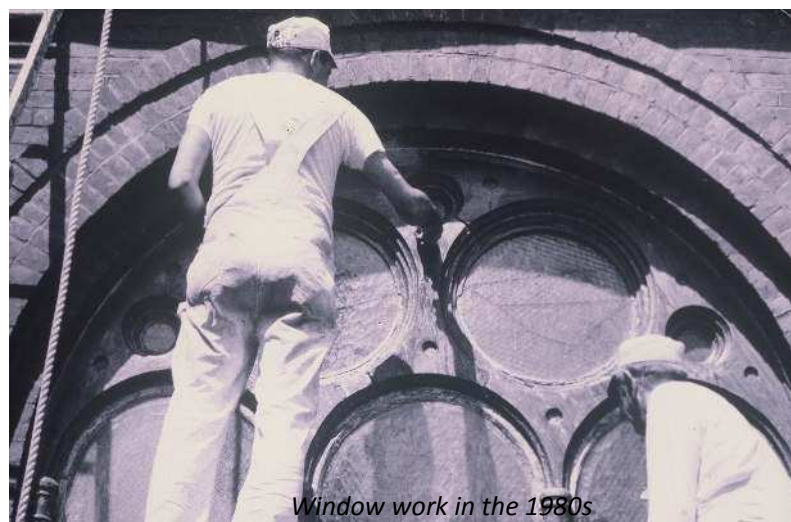
The HPC was reconstituted last November at the request of the Junior Warden and the Archives and Parish History Committee and had its first meeting on Feb 7. The new charter calls for a specific allocation of members: an architect (Don Lipscomb), a visual artist (Hester Ohbi), two long-time members (Mary Cooper and Janice Gregory), and two parishioners (Wayne Johnson, Michael Knipe). The convener is still in search of a co-chair.

We met to review a number of projects underway (see Junior Warden's report), planned, and needed. Projects to be scheduled include: repair/replace the terrazzo, floor board repairs, refinish the chancel and baptistery wood floors, repair water damage to the chapel ceiling, and order seat cushions for clergy, acolytes, and wardens. There are also several issues to consider: (1) Whether to replace the cross hanging system (to

be discussed with a Players rep as the concern was raised by them) with something stronger and motorized; (2) What to do with the clergy platforms? (3) Where to display the Eagle lectern when the smaller one returns? (3) Re-design or replace the tract racks (4) How to keep the chapel anteroom neat and clear; (5) Whether to keep the book carts for hymnals or return the books to the chairs; (6) Set up the procedure for the future sale of the last nave (clerestory) window and other glass in the nave and around the building; and (7) restoration of the doors to the nave, both interior and exterior.

Two small projects will soon be underway: Hester Ohbi will paint the Epiphany star created by Joya Cox; the eagle lectern will remain on view in the baptistery after consultation with Jeff Kempskie.

The committee does not meet regularly but, rather, as need arises and it will function primarily as an advisory to the Junior Warden and Fabric Committee.



#### TREASURER'S REPORT,

*Andrew Stafford, Parish Treasurer*

**2015 Overview** The 2015 parish operating budget was planned to be balanced with both income and expenditures totaling \$874,220. Unfortunately, income projections fell short by 4.3% (see detail below). For the most part, expenses tracked the budget throughout the year, with the exception of additional Administration costs incurred during our recent bookkeeping transition and the unexpected need to conduct two audits rather than one to satisfy the requirements of the bank in order to secure the V2020 loans. The expense overrun was 3% producing an overall budget overrun of 7.3%.

**2016 Budget** In January, the vestry passed the 2016 budget with a projected deficit of \$26,803. Income is expected to rise based on the canvass results and several new sources of income, along with increased space rental income. On the expense side, unlike last year, the payroll portion of the budget includes full salaries, benefits and expenses for the new Rector and Youth Director as well as two new part-time music positions, resulting in a 23% increase for this category. Fortunately, expenditures in the other expense cat-



egories remain the same or are lower, with the exception of the payment to the Diocese which we have been underpaying for several years.

**V2020 Income and Expenses** For the first time the St Mark's budget contains both an income and expense line which reflect the amounts remaining to be paid by V2020 pledges (income) and the amount owed to the bank for a short term loan taken to complete construction in 2014 (expense). We are committed to paying off this loan by the end of 2016. The interest on the long-term loan of one million dollars was incorporated in the Property portion of the budget in 2015 and remains so.

	<b>2015 Budget Report</b>		<b>2016 Budget</b>
<i>Income</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>
Pledges	\$800,220	\$776,038	\$855,500
Plate	\$45,000	\$33,882	\$40,000
Other Income	\$5,700	\$3,368	\$15,600
Parish Organizations	\$10,000	\$10,242	\$9,000
Outside Organizations	\$13,300	\$12,704	\$24,800
V2020 Income			\$150,230*
Total	\$874,220	\$836,234 (- \$37,986)	\$1,097,530

	<b>2015 Budget Report</b>		<b>2016 Budget</b>
<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>
Payroll & Related	\$434,200	\$430,382	\$553,433
Parochial Ministry	\$40,700	\$46,294	\$35,100
Diocesan Pledge	\$40,000	\$44,212	\$44,000
Outreach/VT Seminary	\$20,000	\$20,527	\$20,000
Administration	\$74,620	\$104,745	\$73,000
Property	\$264,700	\$257,458	\$253,700
V2020 Expense			\$145,100*
Total	\$874,220	\$900,264 (+\$26,044)	\$1,124,333
Deficit	Balanced	(-\$64,030)	(-\$26,803)

YEAR	PLEDGE UNITS	PLEDGES: ADULTS	AVE. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	BAPTIZED MEMBERS <sup>2</sup>	COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING <sup>3</sup>
2008 <sup>4</sup>				830	
2009	362	534	291	+31/-5 =356 <sup>5</sup>	654 (536A/128Y) <sup>6</sup>
2010	379	559	284	+28/-2 =882	676 (541A/135Y)
2011	390	572	319	+27/-7 =902	715 (572A/143Y)
2012	345	513	296	+22/-25 =899	720 (575A/145Y)
2013	335	494	287	+36/-15 =920	740 (580A/160Y)
2014	331	483	269	+21/-2 =939	759 (582A/177Y)
2015	297	430	262	+31/-362 =608 <sup>7</sup>	608 <sup>7</sup> (377A/231Y)

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Included as a baseline

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

<sup>6</sup> Adults/Youth

<sup>7</sup> The drop in numbers is the result of a 'clean-up' of the parish records done periodically by clergy. It is worth noting that, in recent years, we are acquiring members who neither transfer from another church nor are confirmed or received (into the Episcopal church from another Christian denomination). It is becoming increasingly common for active members to *not* be recorded in the parish register. If you would like to know if you *are* in the register, please contact a member of the Archives and Parish History Committee, identified elsewhere in this report. Contact clergy for information re: confirmation, transferring a membership or being received.

YEAR	SUNDAY EUCHARIST (*5PM BEGINS)	WEEKDAY EUCHARIST	PRIVATE EUCHARIST	MARRIAGE	BURIALS
2009	104	21	16	4	2
2010	144*	42	8	5	4
2011	141	58	9	9	5
2012	145	54	8	9	1
2013	133	54	0	10	8
2014	140	60	2	9	8
2015	135	46	3	0	8

### Vestry Actions March '15 through February '16

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

VA 03-16	Approved March 6, 2016 as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting.
VA 04-15	Approved Margaret Brown as a money counter.
	Agreed on salary for Interim Rector.
VA 05-15	Designated all proceeds of bequests not directed by donor for a specific purpose to paying down the loan at National Capital Bank.
	Changed the signatories for the loan at the National Capital Bank from the Co-Chair and Treasurer of Vision 2020 to the Senior Warden and Treasurer of St. Mark's.
	Approved restoring the annual cost of living increase for all staff who have been on the payroll for one year or more.
	Approved charter of the Outreach Board.
SW 05-15	Signed letter of agreement with the Rev. Michele Morgan to serve as Interim Rector beginning June 13.
VA 06-15	Received report on the choice of Caroline McReynolds-Adams to be Director of Youth and family Ministries.
	Adopted resolution defining membership in the parish.
	Approved charter for the 20s/30s group.
VA 07-15	Approved Senior Warden and Treasurer as signatories on line of credit at National Capital Bank.
	Approved Senior Warden and Treasurer as signatories to draw additional funds on either of two lines of credit at National Capital Bank.
	Accepted bequest of \$100,000 from the estate of Bert Cooper for repair of the stained glass windows and the historic fabric of the church.
	Approved development of a new parish publication, <i>WINGED LION REVIEW</i> , to be published electronically six times a year.
	Approved resolution to create Historic Preservation Subcommittee within the Fabric Committee.
VA 10-15	Approved resolution establishing the policy that all bequests not specifically targeted by the bequester be devoted to paying down the loan at National Capital Bank.
	Approved addition of Michael Summey and Kim Bayliss to the Endowment Board.
	Approved use of Endowment funds from the Hoitsma Fund to repair gutters.
VA 11-15	Approved creation of The Archives and Parish History Committee. Approved \$5,000 budget for the Committee.
	Approved expenditure of \$15,000 for development of a new website.
VA 12-15	Approved audits for 2013 and 2014.
	Accepted bequest of \$60,000 from the estate of Suella Henn for creation of a rain garden and debt reduction.
VA 1-16	Increased the 2016 budget to increase our diocesan pledge by \$4k; ask Finance to work with Interim for a proposal to increase contribution to 10% operating budget
	Approved the 2016 budget be approved
	Approved the naming of the nursery in honor of Margaretha Trusheim
	Approved the submitted amendments to the St. Mark's Players charter
	Approved amendment to the parish bylaws changing the wardens term to 2 years with an option for a 1-year extension be forwarded to the parish at the Annual Meeting (3/13) for vote

## ENDOWMENT BOARD

*Kathryn Powers and Cecilia Monahan, co-chairs*

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 60% of its assets in common stocks and 40% in bonds. 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 2015 Disbursements and Activities**

**Building Preservation Fund:** Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. In 2015 there were no donations to, or disbursements from, the Building Preservation Fund.

**Hoitsma Fund:** Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this fund provides for long-term building improvements that are not covered by the operating budget. In 2015 there were no donations to this fund. The Junior Warden used \$28,197 from the Fund to replace the gutter liner on the church's west side and to repair the gutter liner on the less sensitive east side. \$6000 from the sale of columbarium units was transferred to the Hoitsma Fund as partial repayment of a loan 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. The projects would not otherwise be funded by the budget. In 2015 there were no donations to the General Fund. There were two disbursements. \$5000 was transferred to the Archives and Parish History Committee for maintenance, organization, and display of documents, and \$15,000 was transferred to the St. Mark's Communications Work Group to improve the web page.

**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 2015.

**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 2015, at the recommendation of the dance board, \$5195 of spendable funds was used for scholarships, and \$1500 of spendable funds was used to partially subsidize refinishing the nave floor after its heavy use by the Company during the V2020 construction.

**Arts Fund:** This fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2015.

**Holtkamp Organ Fund:** Set up in 1998, this fund provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. The Music Director requests disbursements. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2015.

**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)      Cecilia Monahan (Co-Chair)      Michael Summey (Treasurer)

# St. Mark's Endowment Funds

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2015

2015 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

10-Feb-16

	Total	General	Arts	Building Preservation	Holtzman Capital Improvement	Holtzman Organ Maintenance	Dorfer Education	Craighill Dance
Current Fund Value 12/31/2015	743,087	108,649	52,970	216,132	131,906	32,610	50,683	150,137
Beginning Fund Value end of 2014 12/31/2014	762,549	128,551	53,050	216,457	154,133	32,659	50,760	156,936
YTD Change in Market Value since December 31, 2014	(657)	98	(80)	(325)	(30)	(49)	(77)	(104)
	-0.1%	0.1%	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.1%
New Donations / loan repayments during 2015	\$ 800	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	-
Disbursements:								
7/13/16 columb loan	(5,186)							
7/2/16 scholarship	(1,800)							
10/20/16 nave floors	(15,000)							
11/25/16 website	(28,197)							
11/25/16 gutters	(5,000)							
11/25/16 archives								
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of Dec 31, 2014 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)	1,064,982	137,864	55,638	520,516	132,651	28,443	45,040	143,609
2016 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2016 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance)	53,250	6,893	2,797	26,026	6,633	1,422	2,252	7,180
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2008	\$ 416		3,113		863	968		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010	\$ 896		2,054		4,830	963		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2011	7,778		1,985		4,768	1,030		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2012	16,756	2,823	2,104		5,265	1,145	122	2,136
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2013	17,276	6,213	2,394		5,838	1,268	2,075	6,583
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2014	26,117	6,688	2,665					
Subtotal	121,688	23,617	17,112	28,028	28,187	8,788	4,449	16,888
YTD spent	(48,892)	(20,000)	-	-	(22,197)	-	-	(6,695)
TOTAL 2016 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2016	72,796	3,617	17,112	28,028	6,000	8,788	4,449	10,193

## NOTES:

\*\* The dance fund original bequest was given with a request that \$20,000 be spent on an archiving of the dance studio's historical information.

## LOANS DUE TO THE ENDOWMENT: NOTSMA

transaction #1  
transaction #2

Due From St. Mark's Church Columbarium Designated Account - interest free loan (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	25,000
11/30/2011 Balance Due from St. Mark's Church Columbarium Designated Account	7,300
4/06/2013 Repayment from church	32,300
4/06/2013 Balance Due from St. Mark's Church Columbarium Designated Account	(3,200)
2/8/2014 Repayment from church	30,100
2/8/2014 Balance due at 12-31-2014	(3,413)
7/13/2015 Repayment from church	27,687
7/13/2015 Balance due at 12-31-2015	(1,147)
	26,540
	(5,000)
	20,540

## **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY/AD HOC TASK FORCES**

### **Membership Committee** *Mary Thuell, Katherine Anderson, Co-Chairs*

The Membership Committee currently consists of two co-chairs and an additional Vestry member, Karen Wiedemann. Our bylaws call for two additional Vestry members (one from each 'class') and four additional parishioners selected by the chairs in consultation with the other members, and approved by the Senior Warden. We are seeking additional participation for the Committee.

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

- 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 Bylaws of the parish.
- Develop ways to invite newcomers to move toward Membership in order to grow a larger, more diverse, and committed parish.
- Work with the Pillars, particularly Parish Life and Christian Education, to publicize and implement plans, projects, and programs designed to encourage and support membership.
- Encourage engagement of our parish in leadership opportunities as well as the general life of the parish
- 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.'

In addition, increasing membership has been identified as one of the 12 Challenges on which our community is focused for '15-'17. As part of clarifying our challenge, we have stated that the priority of the Membership Committee is "to provide support along [a path of belonging at St. Mark's] by putting systems in place that reinforce and encourage belonging."

The Committee reconvened in May 2013 after an earlier iteration went inactive. We meet monthly to address ways we can carry out our mission but find the work to be slow.

In 2015-2016 we accomplished the following:

- Drafted a revision to the church bylaws approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting that clarifies the definition of a voting member at St. Mark's to include any person who has made a financial contribution in the 12 months prior to an Annual Meeting and affirmed a wish to be considered a member.
- Provided an explanation of how an individual may affirm a wish to be considered a member that was approved by the Vestry at its June 21, 2015 meeting. The methods to affirm this wish are
  1. Making a pledge for the calendar year in which the Annual Meeting is taking place
  2. Transferring a letter of membership from another Episcopal church to St. Mark's
  3. Becoming confirmed in or received into the Episcopal church through St. Mark's
  4. Indicating a wish to be a member by an additional method, to be clarified and implemented in collaboration with the Membership Committee, Canvass Committee and church staff
- Launched a pilot program for a new role of "newcomer greeter" for specifically-identified and trained individuals to recognize and approach guests at church services
- Revised our practice of making a welcome announcement to guests during church services, with Vestry approval, to be more sensitive to the experience of our guests
- Implemented a system to respond to newcomer cards filled out by guests by members of the Membership Committee
- We look forward to building on the progress of 2015-2016 to continue putting systems in place that help the sense of belonging in our community.

## **Race and Reconciliation** *inactive*

### **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 54 Elders living in the area and active. Nationwide, 69 Elders remain in contact.

At the May 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 Spring Elders' Dinner, four new leaders were ceremoniously inducted into the august ranks: Grady Hedgespeth, Senior Warden and Michael Summey, Junior Warden; Peter Sherer, Co-Director of Christian Education; Kitty Donnelly (Re-affirmed Elder & Co-Director of Christian Education).

### **Vision 2020** *John Edwards, reporter*

As noted in last year's Annual Report, the Vision 2020 Steering Committee issued a "Final Report" and disbanded at the end of January 2015. Since that time, the Junior Warden and Fabric Committee have coordinated the remaining work connected with the new construction, while the Finance Committee has managed the remaining finances connected with Vision 2020 and its Capital Campaign. In the intervening year, a number of remaining Vision 2020 items that were still in progress have been completed, including final fit-out of new furnishings, lighting fixtures, and various other small miscellaneous items to round out the work. Commissioning of our mechanical and lighting systems (i.e., verifying that everything is working at the efficiencies they were designed to) has also been essentially completed, as well as the final work on our boiler to allow our existing and new systems to work together seamlessly. The only remaining Vision 2020 item at this time, installation of new room signage, is expected to be completed this spring.

The financial management of Vision 2020 over the past year consisted of paying expenses for the remaining items noted above, receiving ongoing Vision 2020 Capital Campaign pledge payments (which are expected to continue through the end of 2016), and making payments toward the principal and interest of our two lines of credit at National Capital Bank. As of January 3, we had collected more than \$2.83 million in pledge payments for the entire campaign. Monthly interest payments on our primary \$1 million line of credit continued throughout the year as part of our operating budget. Interest and principal payments on our smaller line of credit came out of the Vision 2020 income we received from Capital Campaign pledge payments, a \$30,000 bequest received from parishioner Suella Henn, and \$5,440 in credits earned from the sale of solar energy generated by the new photovoltaic solar panels installed on the roof of the new parish hall wing.

In the fall of 2015, we negotiated a renewal of our lines of credit with NCB through the end of 2016. This allowed us to retain our favorable loan terms and interest rate, given the longstanding relationship between St. Mark's and the bank; however, to satisfy more stringent banking regulations, we are seeking approval from the Diocese to use our property as a deed of trust against our outstanding debt. When our loans mature again at the end of 2016, we will engage with NCB to determine if our \$1 million line of credit will be renewed in its current arrangement or convert to a conventional mortgage. As of February 2016, \$219,000 has been paid back to NCB against the principal of our smaller \$350,000 line of credit; payments will continue through 2016 until the end of the Capital Campaign pledge period, when we hope to completely pay off the smaller line of credit.

As we've "lived into" our wonderful new space over the past year, we continue to be grateful to and for the St. Mark's community for the support and patience we've given to each other learning, enjoying, and caring for this ongoing asset for the parish.

### **Vision2020: Living into the New Space in Our Community** *Kenn Allen*

After five years of planning and construction, we took possession of our renovated space, September 2014. Until the 2015 Annual Meeting, we were on a "shakedown cruise": learning how to use new space, manage new systems, and identifying and responding to the myriad things not working quite right or need-

ing “tweaking.” Since then, we have moved to “full speed ahead” as the space has become an integral part of the life of our parish.

Since March, 2015 we have: made sandwiches for the homeless; hosted victims of gun violence fighting for improved gun control legislation;

And held...

- ◇ auditions, rehearsals, and performances by the Players;
- ◇ Middle East Working Group events to educate us about the realities of life in Palestine and Israel;
- ◇ events for families served by Capitol Hill Group Ministry;
- ◇ meetings and class of all kinds: Vestry, Fabric, Discernment and Search, Finance; adult ed including a classy space for our teens;
- ◇ Third Ager’s luncheons;
- ◇ Sunday morning coffee hours and pub lunches;
- ◇ receptions to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died;
- ◇ Crab Feast and Crab of the Year coronation;
- ◇ exhibits to remember the stories of our parish community;
- ◇ choir warm-up and the first-ever-theirs-only choir room;
- ◇ voice and piano lessons;
- ◇ temp controlled archives...and the beat goes on and on and on.

There are the new rentals:

- ◇ Village Playschool: a group of seven 3-year olds who are learning to be together three days each week in our nursery;
- ◇ Classical Conversations of DC, a home-school group whose families and children come together each Tuesday for group learning.
- ◇ Interfaith Justice Workers annual awards night whose leaders came from Chicago
- ◇ CHAMPS and ‘School Within a School’ events in Baxter Hall and the nave.

We have also rejected potential renters who want to teach teens to cook in our kitchen (no commercial license), a soccer camp in the dance studio, and several groups looking to create nursery/daycare programs in our Sunday school rooms.

We have more events coming this year as we venture into this very new area of having highly desirable rental space..



***How we have grown...from the original market house which operated where our nave now stands***



St Mark's Capital Campaign-Vision 2020							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*	TOTAL*
Borrowing on large LOC 2172	200,000.00			1,000,000.00			1,200,000.00
Borrowing on small LOC 2768				350,000.00	18,206.98		368,206.98
Income to Vision2020 Account 70512	255,038.13	292,356.14	1,499,721.50	367,560.36	50,414.45		2,465,090.58
Income from Vestry Account 70511		30,734.81	61,837.52	70,935.00	47,057.71		210,565.04
Sale of Baxter House		1,107,174.17					1,107,174.17
From Endowment				500,000.00			500,000.00
Interest income			877.65	402.44	12.43		1,292.52
From DCSEU for new boiler				16,500.00			16,500.00
Balance in Vestry Account 70511 (6/01/2015)					1,902.94		1,902.94
Income to Vestry Account 70511					102,870.99		102,870.99
Solar Renewable Energy Credits					5,022.00	418.50	5,440.50
Bequests					30,000.00		30,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 455,038.13</b>	<b>\$ 1,430,265.12</b>	<b>\$ 1,562,436.67</b>	<b>\$ 2,305,397.80</b>	<b>\$ 255,487.50</b>	<b>\$ 418.50</b>	<b>\$ 6,009,043.72</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>							
Interest paid on small LOC 2768	1,802.93	2,268.49	164.39	12,767.11	15,047.76	992.02	33,042.70
Principal paid on small LOC 2768		200,000.00			156,000.00	63,000.00	419,000.00
Episcopal Church Foundation	41,575.00						41,575.00
Diocese of Washington	25,866.34						25,866.34
Bonstra/Haresign Architects	80,346.67	196,985.40	68,548.10	98,956.10	23,205.56		468,041.83
E & G Group - Constr. Mgmt.	55,436.23	103,064.88	73,159.42	81,813.41	2,105.30		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	3,450.00	2,287.50	74,436.00
Permits & Cert. of Occupancy	2,500.00	2,529.75	39,785.19	2,552.20	1,022.42	139.26	48,528.82
Monarc Construction			354,962.30	3,577,656.57	55,188.42		3,987,807.29
Moving, storage and trailers		3,536.44	57,085.95	86,614.31			147,236.70
DC for Street repair deposit		33,635.56	2,444.44	20,181.99	(52,575.55)		3,686.44
Furnishings				243,076.17	15,096.82		258,172.99
Computer & phones				3,999.21			3,999.21
Security				34,209.00	7,714.93		41,923.93
Solar panel installation				47,775.20			47,775.20
Campaign events	14,911.71		301.33	5,869.01	100.00		21,182.05
Postage & new mailbox		25.20			1,014.95		1,040.15
Bank fees	135.66	238.84	180.00	180.00			734.50
Parking			170.00	1,700.00			1,870.00
Misc: Rent on 114 3rd St. Dance Sal.				11,346.00			11,346.00
Mural, Broadside, copies, mailing				3,497.40			3,497.40
Misc: Minor improvements (Monarc Constr.)					2,863.00		2,863.00
Boiler shut-off valves					6,081.00		6,081.00
Lighting improvements					1,683.00		1,683.00
Room signage							-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 251,057.34</b>	<b>\$ 568,247.73</b>	<b>\$ 612,987.11</b>	<b>\$ 4,268,105.11</b>	<b>\$ 237,997.61</b>	<b>\$ 66,418.78</b>	<b>\$ 6,004,813.68</b>
Cash available to pay bills + LOC	\$ 203,980.79	\$ 1,065,998.18	\$ 2,015,447.74	\$ 52,740.43	\$ 70,230.32	\$ 4,230.04	
*as of 02/01/2016; does not include pledge income from January 2016							

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
Income to Vision2020 Account	255,038.13	292,356.14	1,499,721.50	350,000.00	350,000.00
Income to Vestry Account		30,734.81	61,837.52	382,511.36	2,429,627.13
Sale of Baxter House		1,107,174.17		84,992.71	177,565.04
From Endowment				500,000.00	1,107,174.17
Interest income			887.65	406.69	1,294.34
From DCSEU for new boiler				16,500.00	16,500.00
				5,582,160.68	5,582,160.68
<b>Expenditures</b>					
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	25,963.17	9,362.09		37,844.89
Other Consultants Mechanical		6,823.90			68,698.50
Permits	2,500.00	2,529.75	39,785.19	35,911.43	47,367.14
Monarc Construction			354,962.30	2,552.20	3,979,671.29
Moving, storage and trailers		3,536.44	57,085.95	86,614.31	147,236.70
DC for Street repair Deposit		33,635.56	2,444.44	(32,393.56)	3,686.44
Furnishings				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	25.20	301.33	5,969.01	21,182.05
Postage & new mailbox				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	1,700.00	1,870.00
Misc: Rent on 114 3rd St, Dance Sal.				11,346.00	11,346.00
Mural, Broadside, copies, mailing				3,497.40	3,497.40
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	

Line of Credit from National Capital Bank;  
This LOC will be paid back from pledges;  
Pledge payments - have you paid yours?

Professional consulting re feasibility  
Repay line of credit to finance feasibility study  
Architectural drawings: several iterations  
Professional management of project

Includes mechanical, fire safety, green options

Renting space at National Capital Bank

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE, Mike Townsend & Nora Howell, Co-chairs**

The Stewardship Committee, co-chaired by Michael Townsend and Nora Howell, conducted an extensive Canvass in the fall of 2015, featuring the first attempt at a true “face to face” Canvass at St. Mark’s in a decade. More than 50 canvassers were recruited, and every pledging member of the church was assigned to a canvasser. Canvassers made a concerted effort to have a face-to-face meeting with their assignees to discuss their views on their St. Mark’s experience and to make a formal “ask” for financial support. Below, we report the results of this effort and offer a number of reflections about what we learned during this experience.

### **Results**

As of February 12, 2016, here are the Canvass results as compared to 2015:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Pledge Units</b>	<b>Pledging Adults</b>	<b>Amount Pledged</b>	<b>New Pledgers*</b>	<b>Out-of-Town Pledgers</b>
2015	332	483	\$802,560	30	13
2016	297	430	\$804,991	15	12

\* Pledgers that did not make a pledge the previous year are considered “new.” In some cases, they are “returning” pledgers who had made pledges in one or more prior years but not in 2015.

There are 18 pledge units who pledged for 2015 but have indicated that they have left the church and will no longer be pledging.

Approximately 30 pledge units who pledged for 2015 had not yet made a pledge for 2016 as of February 12, nor have they indicated that they are withdrawing their membership. This is not atypical for a St. Mark’s Canvass – the annual “clean up” of late pledgers usually happens in January and February.

### **REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED**

**The “Every Member Canvass” was very well-received.** It was clear that there is a craving for conversation and interaction among parishioners. Both canvassers and members overwhelmingly reported positive interactions and that they enjoyed getting to know people better. The leadership should continue to find ways to connect parishioners with one another, particularly people who may not know each other already.

**A face-to-face Canvass remains logistically challenging.** The management burden on the Co-Chairs for a face-to-face Canvass is significant. We recruited a total of 51 canvassers (including ourselves), which is a terrific result. Each canvasser was assigned 4-6 members of the parish to canvass. Predictably, this had mixed results. Due to a variety of circumstances, not all canvassers were able to complete their outreach to members. As a result, while the overwhelming majority of the parish was at least contacted for a face-to-face meeting, several parishioners were never contacted. In addition, many parishioners turned down the opportunity for a conversation or never responded to the invitation at all.

**A lot of useful information, particularly about pastoral situations, was gathered.** Canvassers reported a lot of detail from their conversations, which we kept in a large spreadsheet. Pastoral situations were forwarded to the immediate attention of Michele. Other information was provided to Senior Warden Peter Sherer, or to the appropriate parish program leader. In addition, many parishioners completed the “time and talent” portion of the 2016 pledge form, indicating areas of expertise in which they were willing to volunteer. Those responses were recorded, gathered into a spreadsheet and are being shared with Parish leaders who will use the information to identify volunteers.

**The “pre-calls” made during the summer and early fall were particularly well received.** Canvassers and canvasees alike reported really liking the initial conversation, which was really a “check in” and had no

“ask for money” aspect to it. The number of these conversations was more limited, as it proved challenging to make connections during the late summer. But for those who did connect, this was a highly valuable conversation.

**The Every Member Canvass did not result in any discernible change in the pace of incoming pledges.** Despite the popularity of the conversations, the actual submission of pledges did not change. More than 90 pledgers had made no response to the Canvass by Christmas, despite the early November deadline. Scores of calls and e-mails were needed in January – and by mid-February there were still more than 30 parishioners who had made no response to the canvass effort.

**Our demographics continue to pose a challenge.** Many of our largest pledgers are reaching an age at which they are reducing their involvement in and financial support of St. Mark’s. Some are retiring and moving away. New members, not surprisingly, tend to pledge less than the departing members. This reality is making it challenging to increase the overall pledge income to the parish, which is putting pressure on the operating budget. We expect this trend to continue in the coming years. As a result, we believe expanding membership at St. Mark’s to be perhaps the single more pressing issue facing the community.

We are enormously grateful for the generous financial support provided by nearly 300 parishioners. And we thank the 49 canvassers who joined us in meeting with parishioners to ask for that financial support. Without you, we could not have had a successful Canvass.

**DIOCESAN DELEGATION** *Bill Dickinson, Raiford Gaffney, Joe Tarantolo, Lay Delegates; The Revs. Michele Morgan and Justi Schunior, Clerical Delegates.*

On January 30, the St. Mark’s delegation to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) attended the annual Convention held at Washington National Cathedral. Relative to past Convention’s, this one-day event was an abbreviated version with:

- The elimination of the opportunity for nominees for elected office to present themselves to delegates and clergy prior to the elections.
- The rescheduling of interactive workshops traditionally held at Convention to Leadership Learning Days to be held on February 27 and March 5. These will consist of training and coaching sessions focused on parish management and revitalization.

The primary matters dealt by the Convention included:

- Realignment of the EDOW regions and sub-regions, now termed “districts”. This should not create any great change for St. Marks although there was considerable encouragement that we work more cooperatively with parishes in our district.
- An ‘ask’ by the Bishop for increases of 2% what every parish now contributes annually to EDOW. The traditional requested pledge is 10% of their revenue from all parishes. However only a few parishes are able to meet this goal. St. Mark’s annual pledge has for a number of years been \$40,000. Our Vestry - subsequent to Convention - agreed to increase this slightly in 2016 (1%) with an aspirational goal of 10%. Annual giving from all parishes is a bit over \$2M representing a \$44K shortfall below the budgeting level. The budget (and revenue) has not increased above 2011 levels in spite of increasing expenses primarily for staff (pension, medical, utility costs etc.). The result has been termination of several staff positions. 22 parishes contribute 3% or less of their revenue and the average is about 5%. The Soper Fund, EDOW’s largest endowment over which it has control, although initially intended for congregational growth, now provides about 1/3 of the revenue for operation. In 1996 then-Bishop Ronald Haines declared that the Diocese intended that the Soper income would not be used in lieu of pledges and assessments. The Bishop urged that by increased congregational giving, we could return the Soper Trust to its original missionary purposes.

- A resolution regarding a living wage of \$15/per hour – not only in what we pay non-clergy persons who work for our parishes, but also as a policy position before governments in our diocese. After some discussion, the wording of the resolution was altered to be more aspirational.
- A resolution regarding parish relations and interactions with other faith traditions, particularly Muslims. This resolution was modified from a directive to an encouragement.

Rev. Sari Ateek, Rector, St. John's+Norwood, a Palestinian Christian born and raised in Israel/Palestine, provided an uplifting sermon. His main message was how we are all one unified divine masterpiece...God's dream of world peace is realized through the people of all monotheistic faiths.... the people of God working together to make a positive difference in the world in which we live.

St. Mark's very-own Maureen Shea addressed the Convention on behalf of the Executive Council, a body that functions much like the vestry of a parish yet as the primary advisory group to the Bishop. She emphasized the financial stewardship obligations every parish has to EDOW, providing financial support to emerging congregations within the Diocese and being able to meet EDOW's 15% of revenue received from all sources directed to the national church (ECUSA) in support of its promising leadership by our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. One of Curry's mentors was St. Mark's own renowned theologian and visionary the late Dr. Verna Dozier. Maureen indicated that 34 of the 88 parishes have pledged increases in financial contributions. Several parishes indicated from the floor of the convention they would do so.

Bishop Budde, four years into her term, remarked that, after careful analysis of all the parishes in the Diocese, she has concluded all our parishes need to work and collaborate with each other, and learn and adopt best practices from other faith communities. She predicts limited growth in congregational strength and numbers, some declines, with most parishes plateauing in terms of members and strengths. The challenges and opportunities present in our communities are greater than any one congregation can realize or effectively embrace. Our charge is to figure out how to work together.

**DISCERNMENT AND SEARCH COMMITTEE** *Nadine Hathaway and Jim Ashley, co-chairs*  
*Christoph Berendes, Charmian Crawford, Susan Flanders, Caitlin Frazier, Greg Gay, Diane Hoover,*  
*Fay Johnson, Cecilia Monahan, and Rick Rutherford*

**The Rector Search Survey** The DSC completed the last of several opportunities for parish input in the discernment phase by conducting the Rector Search Survey. This took place in March 2015 and more than 202 parishioners responded answering multiple-choice questions and being given the opportunity to provide comments. The five most pressing challenges identified included attracting new members, enhancing our financial well being, encouraging participation, adjusting to a new style of leadership and opening hearts and minds to change. The five areas of ministry ranked the highest were preaching, administration/management, church growth, spiritual growth, and pastoral care.

**The Parish Profile** Concurrently, while collecting and discerning the information gathered from the parish, we engaged in a deliberate, inclusive, and exhausting process to draft and design the parish profile. Beginning August, 2014, DSC members met with each pillar chair to open dialogue and identify information and data that needed from each program. From September through January, we collected extensive historical and current information and photographs and organized those for future use. These documents included information submitted by all of our programs, our leadership, and many individual parishioners. Over the next few months, the Committee developed an outline, drafted initial language, and began to discern collectively the purpose of the profile and what information we wanted and needed to put forward. The outlines and drafts were shared with parish leaders and several individuals along the way to gain feedback and perspective. Following this, we began the design process, employing a professional who made 20 revisions. Finally, in mid-April, 2015, we sent the profile to the Vestry for comments and review. Many important changes were made based on the feedback we received and, in late April, we unanimously approved the parish profile and received approval from the Bishop for its publication.

**May Open House** May 29, 2015, the DSC held a “Halfway There Happy Hour” to celebrate all the time parishioners put into attending meetings, filling out surveys, and participating and hosting home gatherings. We shared the results of the discernment phase of its work and formally introduced the parish profile. Members engaged in informal discussions and provided an update of things to come in the second phase of the work, the search for a new Rector. The event was well attended with about 70-75 parishioners joining the celebration.

**Job Posting** Once the Parish Profile was completed and shared it with the Vestry and parish, it was posted online and shared throughout the national Episcopal network for potential candidates. Concurrently, the DSC worked with Church House to officially post the job announcement. The job announcement was open to all qualified candidates from late May until mid-June.

**Applications and Resumes** In June, we received 24 applications from qualified candidates for the position. Candidates sent applications to Church House (Washington) and the application materials came through the Office for Transition Ministry of the national church and were all in a standardized format called the Ministry Portfolio. They included short essay answers to a number of standard questions, various statistics on each candidate having to do with ordination dates, current and past employment, education, housing and salary package needs, lists of references, and a resume for each. The DSC studied all the application materials received in an effort to identify candidates with the characteristics most valued by our congregation. Our guide for this and every subsequent stage of the process was the information we had gleaned from the congregation during our home gatherings, town hall meetings, and parish surveys.

On June 30, the DSC narrowed the list of candidates that we wished to interview by phone to 13.

**Telephone Interviews** Between July 8th and 20th, we held phone interviews with 13 candidates. All candidates were asked the same set of questions covering theology, leadership and administrative experience, and liturgical creativity. Candidates were also given an opportunity to ask the DSC questions about St. Mark's.

On July 28, the DSC decided to invite 8 of the 13 candidates to move forward in the search process. Seven of these candidates accepted the invitation to continue in the mutual discernment.

(Using the procedure described above) -We made our 7 visits between mid-August and the end of September; and met periodically during that time to report on the visits. Each team also prepared a detailed written report on the visit, the questions asked, responses and overall impressions of each candidate.

**Visits to Home Parishes** DSC teams of 2-4 visited the seven candidates in their home parishes in August-September 2015. The spirit and goals for DSC parish visits were stated as practical and incisive, but also spiritual.

Each visit included:

- A thorough, two-hour interview among the team and candidate with time for our questions, their questions and silence/prayer where it fit.
- An on-site, team meeting to discuss impressions, details and follow up questions.
- A dinner with the candidate and family or significant other
- Attendance at a service –arriving early and staying for coffee hour
- A short meeting with the candidate following the service to conclude with questions, explanations, and last comments.

We sought to get an in-depth understanding of each candidate in person; to capture a sense of his/her action in his/her own environment; to spend informal time in a structured way--at a dinner, but also in more casual conversation.

**Reference Checks** Following our visits, it was to check references. Bishop Marianne contacted the bishops in the candidates' dioceses and our Deployment Officer contacted her counterpart for each candidate to make sure there were no red flags to moving forward. The DSC contacted references supplied on the initial Ministry Profile applications, and in each case, we asked the candidate for permission to contact references. We were mindful throughout our process of candidates' needs for confidentiality about their search and whether those in their parish knew they were looking. We also keep strict confidentiality at St. Mark's about the candidates.

We made from 8-10 phone reference checks for each candidate. These yielded almost entirely positive and consistent feedback.

**Candidate Visits to St. Mark's** On October 6, the DSC decided to invite five of the eight remaining candidates to visit St. Mark's. Our goal was to be "gracious, fair, disciplined and focused" throughout the two-day visit.

The visit consisted of greeting and transporting the candidate to the Hill and spouse/partner to the hotel, a potluck dinner with the DSC in a member's home, a tour of St. Mark's, and a two-hour interview and liturgical ritual with homily. We completed these visits on November.

**Discernment to four finalists** The DSC sent a final report of our activities and each candidate to the Vestry December 9<sup>th</sup>. It contained the results of our surveys and list of events. December 13, the Discernment and Search committee met with the Vestry. We recommended four candidates, unranked. Each candidate has the potential to be an exceptional leader of St. Mark's.

The DSC was charged with presenting one preferred candidate and two alternates. A year later and after hours of discussion, we came to consensus that the additional work required to fulfill the charge could most expeditiously be done by the Vestry. We believe we have created a solid foundation on which they can build, and we have strived to provide information and guidance that will help them do so efficiently.

We thank the St. Mark's community for their participation, interest and patience throughout the search process.

**Commitment to Communication with the congregation** Finally, the DSC paid attention to its commitment to continually communicate and update the parish on its work and progress. It is our belief that this information can and will help current and future leaders to understand where we are and what we can do to enhance our communal life together. The Committee has published summaries of all that we learned and invite all to read these.

The documents can be found at <https://stmarksdsc.wordpress.com/parish-self-exploration/>.

*Note: As this report goes to press, the parish has been informed that the Vestry has called The Rev. Michele H. Morgan to remain at St. Mark's as Priest-in-Charge. Please see the letter in the parish archives from Senior Warden Peter Sherer.*





## **REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS**

### **WORSHIP** *Jessie Babcock and Valeri Byrd, Co-Directors*

Worship is one of the most important aspects of our community life and touches everyone who walks through the doors into our historic nave. In 2015, we continued our tradition of crafting creative, challenging liturgy and explored new ways to offer spiritual nourishment to the parish through our communal worship. June 2015, Worship Co-Director Alvin Moseberry passed the reins to Valeri Byrd, with Jessie Babcock remaining in her role.

The Liturgy Planning Team (LPT), led by Jessie and Valeri, is a group of lay, clergy, and staff members who work hard to craft worship that is meaningful, creative, and dynamic. We held our annual retreat in August and discussed new approaches to worship planning including completing a parish worship survey or town hall (deferred until the arrival of our new rector), and continuing to incorporate creative, meaningful liturgy. Through our meetings, we have begun a new planning construct that convenes small groups separate from monthly LPT meetings to plan liturgies for a season. We have successfully planned Advent and Lenten liturgies using this model. We continue working to make the monthly LPT meetings a meaningful experience for both laity and clergy.

*Highlights from 2015 include:*

#### **March-May:**

- ◇ Lent and Holy Week were a busy, creative time. We continued a now-annual tradition of offering the impositions of ashes at Capitol South metro station on Ash Wednesday during the morning and evening commutes. More than 150 people participated, each person receiving a leaflet titled *Ashes to Go*, with a description and explanation of the service and a list of special services and Lenten programs at St. Mark's. We also began several new initiatives: we introduced the Taizé style of worship into 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent, incorporating silence, sung prayer, and chant to create a meditative atmosphere; and offered Morning Prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer* each Wednesday.
- ◇ Holy Week: we had special services including several 'firsts': Palm Sunday, Co-Chair Jessie Babcock commissioned an original dance, spoken word, and music composition to commemorate the Passion of Jesus Christ. The piece included original choreography by Dance Studio Director Rosie Brooks, as well as original music for piano and cello composed by Music Director Jeff Kempeskie. Feedback from parishioners was overwhelmingly positive; Good Friday; we traveled outside the nave to offer prayers for social justice at the Supreme Court, Capitol, and Library of Congress as part of our "worship in the world" initiative.
- ◇ St. Mark's hosted the annual Capitol Hill inter-denominational Easter Vigil with new participants from First Trinity Lutheran (Judiciary Square) and several hundred attendees. Co-Chair Jessie Babcock accomplished Easter greening and many dedicated volunteers, including Susana Gomes, Lucy Brown, Ruth Ann Hess, and others.
- ◇ Mothers' Day: A group of a dozen or so parishioners traveled to the Capitol to offer prayers for "All Mothers' Children" in honor of victims of gun violence, part of a Diocesan-wide initiative. Taking worship outside the nave is an important part of the St. Mark's ethos to be people of "love and justice" in the world.



### **June-August**

- ◇ June: We participated in “Shrine Mont on the Hill,” where we held listening sessions with interested parishioners on our communal worship. We welcomed Interim Rector Michele Morgan, who has taken an active and supportive role in crafting liturgy with the Liturgy Planning Team (LPT). During the summer, we co-hosted biweekly Eucharist and Compline services in area Capitol Hill parks with Christ Church+Capitol Hill. These services were part of a new initiative that brought worship to our neighbors. Several dozen people from both churches participated along with various passersby.

### **September-November**

- ◇ September: We inaugurated “Worship Participation Month” to encourage more participation from the congregation in the service. Instead of signing up volunteers for morning service roles, we solicited volunteers the day of the service (in the way the 5 pm congregation recruits volunteers). The experiment required intensive organization and preparation, and caused some consternation among some congregants. That said, it was an example of St. Mark’s seeking to make worship more inclusive and flexible, and encouraging attendees to see them as part of worship.
- ◇ October: For the first time, Earth Mass was held in conjunction with the Feast of St. Francis and consisted of a special liturgy including of a jazz band, choral music, projected pictures of nature, and Blessing of the Animals as we celebrated all of God’s creation. For the first time and following Michele’s lead, All Saints’ Day worship services included a reading of the Necrology, the list of those loved ones who have died in the past year.

### **December-February**

- ◇ December: We inaugurated a very successful, “Advent Word of the Day,” with a short reflection and photo accompanying a word or short phrase appropriate to the season. The Word of the Day was published through email and designed to help parishioners feel more connected to the liturgical season. We inaugurated a “What is Advent?” insert to help those new to the Episcopal tradition feel more included and we intend to continue similar explanations throughout the church year. We hosted Compline services to offer a space for prayer and reflection on a weekly basis. Finally, St. Mark’s hosted an interfaith vigil in early December for victims of gun violence, which drew several hundred people.
- ◇ Christmas greening this year was made possible by efforts from Valeri Byrd, Michael Knipe, Jack Burton, Jessie Babcock, and many others. The Christmas Pageant and Festival Eucharist were, as usual, buoyant and joyous.

**5 pm Service:** Since 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. With help from Michele Morgan, the 5 pm crowd now has a small play area in the nave so that children can stay with their parents during their service, which has no Sunday school or childcare.

### **Altar Guild:** *Susan Sedgewick, Mary Jo Detweiler, co-chairs*

Twenty parishioners serve on the Altar Guild. In addition to a rotating schedule for preparing the altar for the Sunday and Thursday services, Altar Guild members maintain the linens and supplies, order candles and palms, support funerals and weddings. The 9am and 11:15am teams meet Saturday before Palm Sunday and in early December to polish the silver and brass before Easter and Christmas. In June, at the Guild’s annual dinner when we plan the coming year, we recognized Janice Brown for commissioning and donating two new wood chalice storage boxes to replace the original boxes that have disintegrated. These protect our tall, ornate chalices dating from 1899 and 1911. We also recognized Marcia Knutson who designed and crafted the elegant new pall used to cover ‘cremains’ at memorial services. Serving on the Altar Guild is a way to provide much-needed behind-the-scenes service. If you would like to learn more about Altar Guild (or join us) please contact us.

At our request, the small oak lectern was sent for repairs. Through the efforts of the Junior Warden, parish-

ioner Wayne Johnson took the lectern apart, re-glued and then refinished it. During it's time away, the eagle lectern, and the memorial to our first rector, Mr. Chew and stored in the chapel, was brought into use.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** *Lucy Brown & Joe Calizo, 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 called "functional education" 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. In recent years, other teaching methods have been introduced including the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the Sunday school curriculum and Buddhist meditative practices.

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. 400 participants.

Christian Education for many years has been and remains today the program with the largest parish participation. From April 2015 through February 2016, Christian Education classes and events touched the lives of about 500 participants, including 87 youth participants in Sunday school and youth confirmation, 425 adult class participants, 51 leaders of youth and adult classes, with four supervisors and two Catechesis coordinators, Christian Education Co-Directors, and their supervisor, the Christian Education treasurer, retreat coordinator, and CE catalog graphic artist.

While some 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. Recent innovations include offering short courses of one to three 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 cooperate 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?' This last was not offered this year due to low participation.

'Life, Community and Faith' is a signature St. Mark's class. A team of three-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.

This year adult classes looked at a variety of topics such as addiction, one's legacy, and generational differences. 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.

<b>Participants March 2015-February 2016</b>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Teachers/Supervisors</i>
Catechesis I, II, III	35	9 teachers/ 2 supervisors
Middle/High School	39 youth	6 teachers/3 supervisors
Youth Confirmation	13	3 adult leaders, 1 parent coordinator
Spring Baptism	6 adults	2 leaders
Fall Baptism	8 adults	2 leaders
Intro to St. Marks (Oct)	6	2 leaders
Intro (Dec)	6	2 leaders
CE Weekend	33	2 leaders
Guild (Spring)	22	
Guild (Summer Seminar)	14	
Guild (Intro)	8	2 leaders
Guild (Advent)	10	3 leaders
Sunday Adult Bible Study: Romans	31*	1 leader
Wednesday Bible Study: Matthew	28*	2 leaders
Thursday Bible Group: <i>Reading the Gospels Through Jewish Eyes</i>	5*	2 leaders
<i>My Life, My Legacy</i>	24	3 leaders, 1 supervisor
<i>Who was Jesus &amp; How do we know?</i>	15	2 leaders
<i>Breathing Underwater</i>	11	2 leaders
<i>Lego</i>	9	2 leaders
<i>Spiritual Practices</i>	9	1 leader
<i>Are We Crazy About our Kids?</i>	ca. 20	2 leaders
Jesus Seminar/On the Road	90	

\*Combines Spring 2015 and Fall 2016

**Meditation Center:** *Collie Agle, Convenor; Marlan Green, Manage*

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

During the past year, the Meditation Center has been engaged in:

- \* Meditation “sits” which occur every Monday night. On the average, 20-30 people attend. In addition to honoring silence and stillness, the gatherings have given participants a chance to be reflective about how the wisdom of this eastern faith has been helpful in people’s lives.
- \* Specialized workshops, in conjunction with IMCW, about engaging the practice in the larger world, such as with climate change and immigration issues.
- \* Classes in St. Marks having to do with basic mindfulness skills, parallels between Christian contemplation and Buddhist meditation, the notion of inter-connectedness, and engagement in social and environmental justice.

The Meditation Center is committed to making an annual minimum contribution of \$1000 to St. Marks.

## **OUTREACH**

*Marlan Green and Ruth Ann Hess, Co-chairs*

Jane Rutherford, Treasurer; Dan Ramish, Secretary

**Members:** Doug Ammon, Sally Garr Brodhead, Michael Knipe, Elizabeth Okeke-Von Batten, Jack Richards, Doug Jackson (Vestry Liaison)

**Clergy/Staff:** The Rev. Michele Morgan, the Rev. Justi Schunior, and Caroline McReynolds-Adams, Youth Minister

**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 as 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:** Monthly, except August. Members addressed on-going issues regarding various programs, evaluated funding requests, and reviewed updates on program status.

## **FUNDED PROGRAMS FROM THE ANNUAL BUDGET**

(funding amount 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

**Goundswell International, Vecinos Honduras, and Trinidad Conservation Project (TCP) (\$2500)** are an outgrowth of St. Mark’s longtime association with Honduras. These organizations serve several communities in Honduras by developing their strengths so that they may move toward self-sufficiency and self-

determination. This is accomplished through financial support, technical expertise and by advocating sustainable, community-led, locally-based human and economic development and environmental stewardship. Funds were sent to Groundswell International to be overseen and distributed (see Honduras report)

**Salvation Army Grate Patrol (\$1333)** brings an evening meal to homeless neighbors 365 nights a year and serves more than 3,000 people each month. Our volunteers, primarily parents and children, have supported this effort for many years, making sandwiches and bagging meals on the 4th Sunday of every month.

**Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) (\$5200)** Our contributed funds were matched by the Empower the Homeless Campaign so that SMGW received a total of more than \$6900. 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. Our parishioners volunteered at SMGW as caseworkers, resume writers and front office coordinators. Throughout the year, we donated bags of groceries to SMGW from our altar baskets.

**Soup Kitchen (\$1,444)** This Team and volunteers met monthly and made more than 2,880 sandwiches delivered to the Sunday Suppers van in downtown DC. The Team continued to promote parishioner-prepared monthly casseroles for the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church and donate leftover food. A number of frozen turkeys were delivered to our partner organization – The Church of the Brethren (COB) –now fully supported by the DC Central Kitchen.

**Welcome Table at Church of the Epiphany (\$250)** provides breakfast and shares worship each Sunday with many homeless individuals. A group of parishioners participated one Sunday in 2015 and our financial contribution funded breakfast for over 200 people.

#### **FUNDED PROGRAMS IN ADDITION TO THE OUTREACH PILLAR ANNUAL BUDGET**

(private donations to Outreach)

**Lenten Mite Box Project (\$1645)** contributed to two organizations that promote education for all: Jan's Tutoring House on Capitol Hill (local) and the Malala Fund (international) which enables girls to complete 12 years of safe, quality education so that they can achieve their potential and be positive change-makers in their families and communities.

**Shelter Ministry (\$952)** has transitioned from providing hospitality to families that stayed temporarily in the church's undercroft during the summer to providing supplemental support for families served by Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM). These services include providing lunches for a weekly parenting class, and hosting two family nights per year. At the August Family Night, Outreach funded 24 backpacks filled with school supplies and in December Santa distributed books and small gifts purchased by our teenagers with Outreach funds. Additionally, parish members participated in CHGM's Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) which checks people living on the street throughout the year but especially on hypothermia-alert nights. Our volunteers also supported CHGM efforts through administrative support, board participation, and food and grocery gift cards for CHGM's Thanksgiving Basket program.

**St. Paul's Foundation for International Reconciliation (\$2513)** is focused on the intersection of human rights, health, education, and faith. The Foundation assists and provides resources for emerging grass roots organizations and leaders in the Global South so that marginalized groups can be included more deliberately in their own larger communities. These groups include but are not limited to adults and children affected by AIDS and LGBT persons. The Foundation's advocacy work includes improving access to services for these groups who may be seeking asylum or simply increased personal security.

**The following three affiliated programs are not administered directly by the Outreach Pillar:**

**MID-EAST WORKING GROUP** *Maureen Shea, Karen Getman,*

The Mid East Working Group (MEWG) sponsors a variety of events designed to raise awareness about challenges to peace and justice in the Middle East, particularly regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We have watched the flood of refugees from Syria with particular dismay and are expanding our work to include refugee support in 2016.

Our major project in 2015 was the September pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine with 27 travelers led by Karen and Tom Getman. As with our pilgrimage in 2013, the pilgrims visited the Holy sites *and* were part of a MEJDI dual narrative tour exploring the context of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. In preparation for that trip, group members met regularly to learn about various aspects of the conflict.

Through email communication and its Facebook page, MEWG regularly informs those interested from St. Marks as well as others about the many events in the metropolitan area. These included plays, documentaries, lecture series, and panel discussions.

This year, we:

- ◆ April 2-3 – raised \$2,400 for the Diocese of Jerusalem through the Good Friday Offering. It was presented to Archbishop Dawani by the pilgrimage group in September.
- ◆ May 17 – heard Ari Roth, Artistic Director, Mosaic Theater Company, speak on American Jewish responses to the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as his dreams for the Mosaic Theater and his series *Voices from a Changing Middle East*.
- ◇ July 8 – hosted ‘New Story Leadership: New Voices from Israel and Palestine’. We heard the stories of four of ten Israelis and Palestinians (ages 20-32) who came to Washington to live and work together and learn critical skills in empathetic listening, dialogue, and cooperation.
- ◇ August 2 – accepted Rev. Josh Thomas’s invitation to host 30 Jewish, Christian, and Muslim 7th-graders from Palestine and Israel. The students participated in the liturgy, Josh preached, and both responded during Sermon Seminar. A light lunch followed.
- ◇ September 1-13 – traveled to the Holy land including time in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Galilee, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, and Tel Aviv. Some continued to Jordan and Petra.
- ◇ October 28 – heard Georgetown professor Dr. Emad Shahin speak on ‘The Struggle for Human Rights in Egypt’ sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild and Amnesty International
- ◇ November 3 – enjoyed a presentation by the 2015 pilgrimage participants reporting on the holy sites and peace-building programs they visited.
- ◇ December 5 – held a dinner for three previous pilgrimage groups to help plan MEWG events for 2016.
- ◇ Advent – supported Palestinian olive farmers and artisans through the sale of olive oil, ornaments, and nativity scenes. The profit of \$1,200 was sent to American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) to support its work with Syrian refugees.

**HONDURAS COMMITTEE** -- *Jennifer Dalzell, Chair, and Betsy Agle*

**Members:** Jennifer Dalzell, Betsy and Collie Agle, Steve Beste, Rita Ossolinski, Julie Murphy

**Background:** The Honduras Committee helps lead our "signature" international outreach project. In ‘08, we helped spearhead the effort to build an active network of churches and individuals in Washington, D.C. to support remote local communities as they experience the environmental problems due to unsustainable practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture and deforestation. This network became known as the Trinidad

Conservation Project (TCP). Roy Lara, a licensed Honduran agronomist and a passionate educator, is the director of the work in communities near Trinidad, Honduras. A bit more history: our relationship with Honduras started in 1989 as teen service trips and continued almost every other year through '10. There was a Women-to-Women trip in '09 and annual adult trips through '13.

#### **Major activities in 2015:**

We took a leadership role in the TCP Work Group helping to identify potential partners to replace the earlier ties with Sustainable Harvest International. The long term-relationship with SHI came to a close as the communities completed SHI's sustainable agriculture and reforestation program and SHI decided to move to another part of Honduras. The new partners are Groundswell International (another U.S. NGO) and Vecinos Honduras (its Honduran partner).

In September, our Honduras Committee hosted a meeting in Baxter Hall to introduce Edwin Escoto, the Executive Director of Vecinos Honduras. Members from all the churches belonging to TCP including Capitol Hill residents came to hear Edwin describe the work of Vecino Honduras and the collaboration with Roy as they structure the program of the future.

In 2015, as a result of the connection with Vecinos Honduras, the TCP program is expanding in several ways: there is a new focus on reducing practices that contribute to climate change and encouraging those practices that help communities adapt to climate change, especially droughts and a new focus on reaching and empowering women by identifying the need for healthy homes and communities.

2016 is starting on a high note for the Trinidad Conservation Project and its new partnership with Groundswell International (US NGO) and Vecinos Honduras (Honduran NGO). With the encouragement of Vecinos Honduras, Roy is working with other local NGOs to organize "farmer-to-farmer" field schools, an approach he believes will result in more widespread adoption of improved agricultural practices and more opportunity to develop leaders and empower others. Balvina Amador, an experienced health facilitator, is now part-time staff for TCP. Recently, she showed village women an easier way to build improved stoves and there are now plans for "women-to-women" projects to build stoves in other homes. Clean up campaigns are reducing mosquito breeding grounds and reducing solid waste dumps.

*You can follow the story of the TCP families and communities on the website:  
[www.trinidadconservationproject.org](http://www.trinidadconservationproject.org).*

#### **GREEN LIONS** Pamela Blumgart and Christina Herman, Co-Chairs

Leslie Allen, Betsy Agle, Collie Agle, Pamela Blumgart, Christina Herman, Sis McKay, Michele Rivard, The Reverend Justi Schunior, *Members*

**History:** This group is the second iteration of the Green Lions, revived on October 4, 2012, by a group interested in organizing St. Mark's efforts to becoming better environmental stewards. The Vestry approved the Green Lions Charter in June 2012.

**Meetings:** The Green Lions meet regularly on the second Sunday of the month at 12:30 in the Rector's Room.

The main goals of the Green Lions 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.

Major activities of the Green Lion over the past year have included:

- Supporting the work of the Junior Warden and the Fabric Committee to use green cleaning products throughout the physical plant, and insure good stewardship of the renovated building.
- Follow up on commissioning of the heating/cooling system installed under Vision 2020.
- Contribute green tips to the church bulletin for ways to save resources in our daily lives.

- Organizing a solar workshop, with DC Sun (local solar coop) serving as a resource, to inform some 25 participants from the parish and local community about group solar purchase opportunities.

### **Arts Council**

*Chris Herman, convener*

The Arts Council was created in the 1990s to gather arts-related programs under one umbrella. Over the years, the Council has sponsored art show/sales and similar projects. Our events dwindled after the death of Visual Arts convener, David Evelyn. Anyone interested in leading that or another arts-related group should contact the convener.

### **The Yoga Center** *Christine Romero, Director*

The Yoga Center continues to regain attendance post-renovation, averaging 7 students per class (still below pre-renovation attendance of 11 students per class). Special programs drew an average of 8 students: A monthly Yoga Nidra / Deep Relaxation program is popular. In November 2015, an Ayurveda & Yoga Therapy workshop was well received. SMYC met its annual \$1200 use fee commitment to the Church. In January 2016, SMYC raised its pass fees very slightly to help meet expenses, the first increase in five years. In February 2016, a four-part monthly series "Going Deeper: Expanding Your Yoga & Meditation" begins. SMYC welcomed back a teacher from our 90's roster, continuing our mission of offering Yoga which is part of a holistic spiritual life, taught by dedicated instructors with decades of practice and experience. In March 2016, SMYC will be the featured non-profit for Instagram's WeThePeopleDC, creating a unique opportunity to welcome new interest in the Yoga Center via their 10K followers.

### **St. Mark's Players** *Mark Allen, President*

The St. Marks' Players mounted three productions during the year. Its critically acclaimed production of "Fiddler on the Roof" was directed by a parishioner and featured several church members in the cast. The fall show, Ken Ludwig's "Moon Over Buffalo," was a rare and successful foray into comedy for the Players. In January, the Players took on an ambitious production of "Sweeney Todd," which was very favorably received.

### **Music Studio** *Jeff Kempinski, Director*

The Music Studio offers music lessons and serves as a modest source of income for the overall church and music program. Jeff Kempinski and Kellie McHugh continue to offer piano and voice lessons, with 15+ individuals of all ages and levels of ability participating at this time. Music Studio recitals were held in May, August, and December to give students the opportunity to perform for others. Additionally, vocal workshops were offered to voice students in the spring, summer, fall, and winter.

### **Dance Studio**, *Rosie Brooks, Director*

**March 29, 2015:** The Dance Studio began this new year by participating in the Palm Sunday service with a live narrative. The moment was not lost on the congregation for positive remarks were immediately given. The music for cello was written by Jeff Kempinski, Director of Music. There were five dancers from the studio who participated with choreography by Rosie Brooks.

**June 6, 2015:** We held our two annual recitals: the first for the younger children in the studio. There were over 200 people in the audience to watch our future ballerinas.

The second one was a mixture of adults and teenagers. There were approximately 125- 150 in attendance giving us a total attendance of 325-350 for the two recitals. Jerry Dale of the St. Mark's Players did the lights for both recitals. It helps to give the participants the feeling of being in a theater.

**Friday, Sept 11 & Saturday, Sept 12:** Fall Registration was held. Both days were quite successful. We started classes the week of Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>.



**October 4:** Three studio dancers participated in the Earth Day service

**November 1:** For All Souls Day, we had ten dancers perform “Wade In the Water” to represent those about to be baptized. Rev. Michele Morgan surprised Rosie by acknowledging her 51<sup>st</sup> year here at St. Mark’s...as a dancer for 25 years and then teacher, choreographer and director (after the late Mary Craighill). It was quite a surprise to hear Michele work Rosie into her sermon.

Our year ended with the annual Open House on Friday, December 4, 2015. We had a very nice audience of about 130 people. The Players presented a song from their January show, “Sweeney Todd”.

We had the Hill Winds as guest artists and a display by several local visual artists. They were very well received.

Last, but not least: one of our parents, a professional chef, provided the refreshments for the Open House. One of our students made beautiful baskets given to one female adult, one male adult, one girl and one boy. We did not have any boys in the audience, so that basket went to the boy dancer in one of the pieces. He was delighted.



*A woodcut of a St. Mark's winged lion by the late David Evelyn, co-founder of the Visual Arts Group*

### **Parish Life**

*Marilu Sherer, Manager*

Parish Life comprises many of the activities that help us connect to one another in good times and in 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, the Crab Feast, dances and other big parties, we enjoy being together just for fun. Then when the going gets rough, our hope is that having gotten to know each other, we will be better able to reach out to offer help and caring in times of need. The purpose of the various smaller 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.

### **Major Social Events**

*Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner* our traditional and wildly popular cocktail reception is held in Baxter Hall, foot washing in the Nave and pot-luck agape dinner followed by a meaningful Tenebrae Service in the Nave. It remains one of the most well liked nights of the year. *Leaders: Raiford Gaffney and Marilu Sherer*

*Parish Picnic* In early September the 20's and 30's hosted our traditional cook-out. There were wonderful salads, yummy desserts, and drinks in Baxter Hall while some serious grilling took place outside. Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Caroline MacReynolds-Adams was responsible for children's fun in the court-

yard. It was a beautiful day and all left happy and well fed.

*Saints and Sinners Hallowe'en Dance* took place October 30, 2015. It was a big, intergenerational party with almost 200 attendees; wonderful costumes, a great band (led by our own Eric Lipscomb) and DJ, children's activities, adult libations provided lots of fun for folks of all ages. This dance was a fantastic reconnection with our tradition of festive dances in the Nave. The Middle Timers and Lambda Lions made the fun happen.

*Agles 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Potluck Celebration* In November, Collie and Betsy Agle celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by inviting the whole congregation to join them Baxter Hall for a potluck supper. The room was full and hearts were happy.

### **Sunday Fellowship**

*Coffee Hour and Hospitality.* Two stalwart groups of parishioners have stepped forward to prepare coffee (tea and hot chocolate) each Sunday: Kenn Allen, Julie Murphy, Kim Bayliss, and Susan Flanders are the set-up team. Following the 11:15, Jim Steed, Martha Connor-Donnelly, Jessie Babcock, Charmian Crawford, Eleanor Whiteman, and Lillian Taylor do clean up. Each person takes a Sunday in rotation. We have begun using ceramic cups, washed by our own Jane Byrne. Our coffee comes from Equal Exchange, and is shade-grown, organic, and free-trade. The amount of coffee being consumed has tripled with the new FETCO coffee maker and ease of brewing.

We also encourage parishioners to provide Hospitality (pick up goodies and fruit) after both services. To provide Hospitality contact Marilu Sherer. The Junior Warden continues managing the coffee supply and schedules the teams so both she and our Senior Warden would be happy to find a new volunteer to take charge of this.

*Pub Lunch* A light lunch following the 11:15 service has fallen off this year. We attempted to replace it with a coffee hour that has also been unsuccessful. We are looking for a new coordinator who can rally the troops for some kind of post-service hospitality. Doug Jackson, Jim Steed and Jack Burton are the Stewards of the Winged Lion Pub which is open for all kinds of libations for lunch and frequently provides service for parish events.

### **CONTINUING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

*Answering Angel* service in the office suite resumed on August 4, 2015. The "Angels" are 23 parishioners who volunteer to support the clergy and staff by answering the telephone, receiving visitors, signing for deliveries, and other tasks as requested. Each serves a specific day and time and is backed up by several substitutes. The service was created in the office transitions in Baxter House after Jim Adams retired and was "on hold" during the renovation and the settling in of the office staff afterwards. *Coordinator: Bob Ewald*

*20's and 30's* group has had several events focusing on service and fellowship. We have done two service projects: in September, we stuffed backpacks for children who would not otherwise have supplies in partnership with the Capitol Hill Group Ministry "Back to School" night and in December, we brought gifts for families who are clients of the Transitional Housing Corporation. Other events included a Nationals ball game, organizing the annual parish picnic, and a neighborhood scavenger hunt. We are transitioning away from monthly potlucks to four events per year: a back to school service project; a Christmas service project; a Nationals ballgame and one other event. The 20's and 30's have created a Holy Happy Hour after the 5pm service.

*Middle Timers* is a newly-organized group for folks from 40-60. They worked hard on the 'Saints and Sinners' dance in October and have met several times throughout the year for fun and fellowship. *Convener: Keith Krueger*

*Third Agers* are those aged 60 and above who meet three times a year for a potluck lunch with speakers or

other programs. We also make occasional trips to locations of interest. On May 2, 2015 our program centered on remembering our mothers; October 17, Rainmaker Video gave a presentation on recording our life stories, and Feb 13 Loretta Veney led us in a Lego activity. *Conveners: Susan Sedgewick and Barbara Harvey*

Caregivers provide assistance to parishioners in the form of calls, visits, prayers, soup, transportation, and equipment for parishioners and their families when someone is ill or recovering from surgery. We have a group that takes primary responsibility for this work but all are encouraged to help. Many of you provide these services for your friends and neighbors without fanfare.

This year we celebrated the lives of these parishioners: R. Brooke Bortner, Henry Burneson, Bert Cooper, Wolcott B. Etienne, Allen Perry Ewald, Suella Henn, William Martin, Robert Lee McGregor, John Overbeck, Sally Rogers, Andrew ('True') Wenchel III, Arnold Winkelman, Christopher Barrow Wright. *Contact: Linda Ewald*

Caregivers Support Group is for individuals caring for seriously ill or otherwise incapacitated loved ones. The group has been meeting twice a month for six years. 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. *Conveners: Mary Welker and Pamela Blumgart*

Reading Group for avid readers meets on the first Monday of each month in the Library. There are usually five or six folks on hand for a lively discussion of the chosen book then select the book for the next month. All are invited! *Convener: Linda Ewald*

College of Crustaceans After a hiatus due to construction without a naming a new crab (as is our usual practice when no Feast is held) and after the reigning Crab '14 Caitie Whelan skipped town for the brighter prospects of New York City, the College got back to work. We served crabs, chicken, corn, watermelon to nearly 100, then entertained all with our usual round of stellar nominations, and pronounced Senior Warden Peter Sherer the Crab of the Year (for having said that the way our debts would be paid off was when some of us died!). The list of all Crabs hangs in Baxter Hall above the piano.

No campaign-  
is permitted,  
acknowl-

ing for COTY  
accepted, or  
edged.



*The College of Crustaceans 2016*

*(Back, L-R): Crane Miller, Jim Steed, Bertha Martin, Jo Ellen Hayden, COTY Peter Sherer (wearing the 'robe) Janice Greg-*

ory, Louise Walsh, Don Lipscomb

(Front, L-R): Charlie Rupp, Doris Burton, Rev. Morgan, Loretta Veney, Rick Weber, Jack Richards

St. Mark's Film Club will celebrate its sixteenth anniversary, May 2016. Alicia Ruble convenes the monthly gatherings on the 3rd Friday in the home of John and Nancy Yanish. Founded in May 2000, we've been watching wonderful movies together for more than 15 years, including classic, independent, current, and foreign films. (A partial list of films shown in the last year: "Stalag 17," "Charade," "Chinatown," "Bottle Shock," and "The Imitation Game.") And there are still many great movies that we haven't yet seen – the list seems almost inexhaustible. Membership is open, with 6-10 people/month in attendance. *Convener: Alicia Ruble*



Woman to Woman, an ad hoc group, connects the women of the parish. In July 2015 the group held a supper party to welcome our Interim Rector Michele Morgan and her wife, Michelle Dibblee. Almost eighty women came together in Baxter Hall to say hello and catch up. It was a big success. In the Fall, 30 women met to "Share our Stories. On Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10 of us gathered for a wine tasting party at the home of Martha Huizenga. *Convener: Edna Boone* (openings for others interested in helping to organize/lead events).

*The W2W banner bears the Chinese symbol for 'friendly relations', designed by Karen Falk and fabricated by Marcis Knutson*

Lambda Lions is our parish LGBTQ affinity group. We invited the parish to gather at the home of Keith Krueger and Joel Lawson in July 2015 for drinks and to welcome Interim Rector Michele Morgan and her wife, Michelle Dibblee. The Lambdas also assisted the Middle Timers in throwing the Saints and Sinners Dance as a gift to the parish. *Convener: Rob Hall*

Lichfield Link, our connection to the people of Litchfield Cathedral in England, is in its 27<sup>th</sup> year. The "link" was formalized in 1989 beginning with the friendship between Tony Barnard (Canon Theologian, ret.) and Jim Adams (11<sup>th</sup> Rector). The commitment was underscored by three visits by their choir, our choir tour to the UK in 1996, and a parish pilgrimage in 1994. 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.

A limited-edition lithograph of the cathedral, a gift to the parish from the Cathedral Chapter presented to the choir in '96 and other pictures/information as well as news postings can be found in the lounge near the Choir Room (lower level). Homestays for St. Mark's parishioners visiting the Midlands is encouraged! *Link Rep: Doris Burton*

The Archives and Parish History Committee was established by the Vestry in November 2015 to do four things:

- organize, maintain and manage the historic and financial records of the parish.
- provide lay leadership for development, implementation and monitoring of a records retention policy;
- educate the parish and the community about the history of the parish; and
- bring an historic perspective to others' work where it will add value.

In the past year, the committee

- began the process of organizing the archives;
- developed three exhibits on parish history – the story of our eighth rector, the Rev. Robert Plumb (1940-

1954) and the history of the parish as seen through the evolution of the physical plant and a winged lion exhibit including art created by our parishioners

- launched the "Give Us Your Stuff" campaign inviting parishioners to contribute documents and memorabilia about the parish
- obtained the papers of the Rev. William Baxter, our ninth rector.

We organized the celebration of our members of 50 years in November, presenting each with a personalized Christmas ornament featuring the St. Mark window in the nave vestibule, followed by a '50s style lunch (spray cheese on Ritz, peanut butter in celery, ham, mac & cheese, green bean casserole, fabulous Jell-O salads, and angel food cake with frozen strawberries and canned whipped cream!)

The work will continue as we plan for the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish. *Co-chairs: Kenn Allen and Doris Burton; Mary Cooper & Cecilia Monahan, members*



*The Annual Men's Club Turkey Dinner, Feb 9, 1928*

*Photo taken in the parish hall. We still have some of the plates used during this era...in the staff kitchen.*



*from the 1950s: The photo was taken at a parish picnic held at Claggett where we will 'retreat' in June*



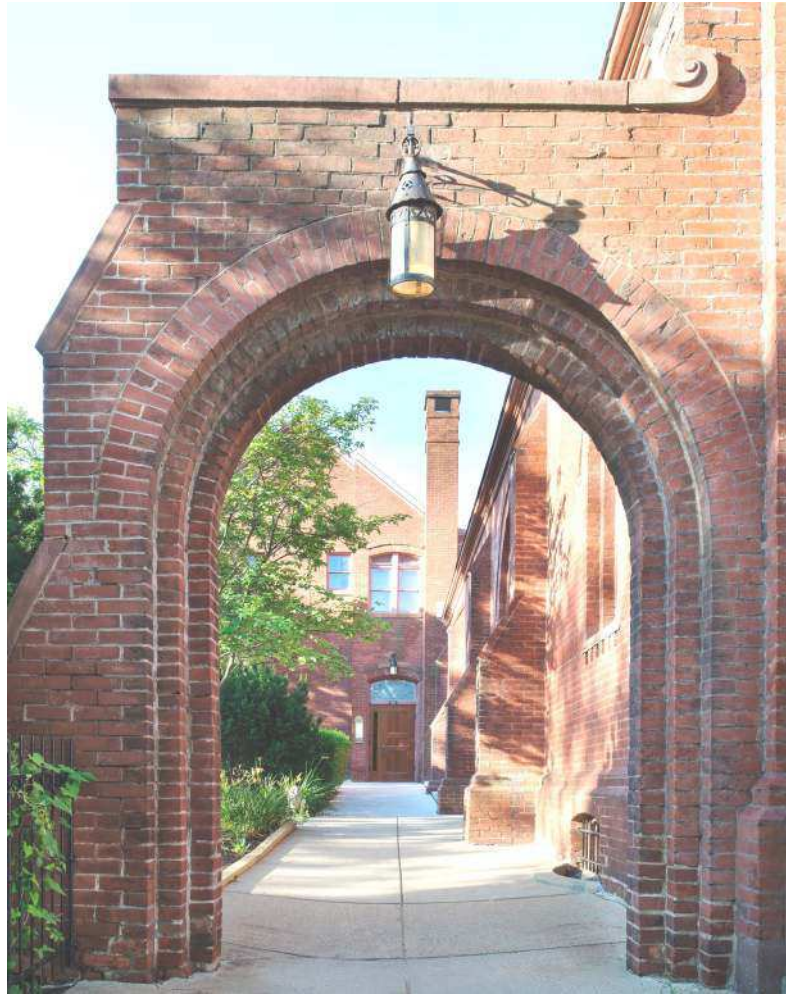
***This year at St. Mark's:***



***Blair Ford and Jessie Babcock on “Garden Restoration Day” in May***



***Justi, Martha Connor-Donnelly, and Thia Hamilton help at the Newtown Alliance Day gathering for victims of gun violence***



*from Bonstra/Haresign*

#### *A word about the 7th edition of the Annual Report to the Parish*

*Each report is prepared by the clergy, staff, Vestry officers, and parish leaders identified at the beginning of their report. They begin working on these in January and submit mid-February to be ready for distribution at the Annual meeting.*

*Photos are from the Parish Archives collection and from snapshots taken throughout the year. Your photos are welcome to be included as space allows.*

