



St. Mark's
+
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting
&
Report to the Parish
March 1, 2016—March 1, 2017

March 26, 2017

Founded 1867

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish St. Mark's + Capitol Hill , 2016-17

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CANDIDATES FOR WARDENS, THE VESTRY, AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

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

The Vestry: three seats, each for a term of three years & one seat for a term of one year

Jim Brooks, Jane Byrne, Tracy Council, Jennifer Holland, Alix Pereira, Peter Nye

†

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

Michael Knipe, Cecilia Monahan

†

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

Nora Howell

†

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

Kenn Allen

+

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Peter Sherer, *Senior Warden* Doris Burton *Junior Warden*
Steve Dalzell, Fritz Henn, Martha Huizenga, *Members of the Vestry*
Bill Dickinson, Marilu Sherer *Members of the Parish*
The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, *ex officio*
The Rev. Justi Schunior, *ex officio*

2017 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 26, 2017

11:30 am Lunch *provided by the Vestry*

12 noon Annual Meeting

Call to OrderThe Rev. Michele M. Morgan, Rector,
Presiding

Opening Prayer.....The Rev. R. Justi Schunior, Asst. Rector

Announcement of Quorum.....Rev. Morgan

Approval of Minutes, 2015 Annual Meeting

Vestry Election:Steve Dalzell,
Nominating Committee Chair

 Report of the Nominating Committee

 Call for Nominations from the floor

 Candidate Speeches, Question/Response

 Vote

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

Proposed Bylaw AmendmentPeter Sherer, Senior Warden

Finance ReportMartha Huizenga, Treasurer

Vestry Election: 2nd Ballot (as needed)

Warden Election.....Steve Dalzell

 Report of the Nominating Committee

 Call for Nominations from the floor

 Candidate Speeches, Questions/Response

 Vote

Diocesan Delegate Election Steve Dalzell

 Report of the Nominating Committee

 Call for Nominations from the floor

 Candidate Speeches, Questions/Response

 Vote

Vestry Election: 3rd Ballot (as needed)

Acknowledgements: Outgoing Vestry/OfficersRev. Morgan

Closing Prayer and Blessing..... Rev. Morgan

Call for Adjournment.....Rev. Morgan

BY-LAWS

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

Article I Members

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

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.

Adopted 4/13/64

Amended:

4/16/71; 4/7/72; 4/23/76; 4/15/77; 4/16/82; 4/8/88; 4/18/'04; 4/19/'09; 3/15/'15

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR WARDENS

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

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.

Proposal: We offer the following amendment to the Parish Bylaws, request this amendment be placed before the membership on March 26, 2017 and that it take effect immediately, thereby applying to the wardens elected March 26, 2017:

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 Annual Meeting in which they are elected and which extends to the Annual Meeting two years hence. The Wardens may serve a **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.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Sherer, *Senior Warden*
Doris Burton, *Junior Warden*



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

DRAFT – for approval at the 2017 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by the Rev. Michele Morgan, Priest-in-Charge. The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. Justi Schunior, Associate Rector.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The Associate Rector announced that the requirement for a quorum was met with 179 eligible voter-parishioners present.

2015 MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

VESTRY ELECTIONS: Retiring Vestry Member Gwen Dillard announced that there were seven candidates for three seats on the Vestry. There were no further nominations from the floor.

Questions had been sought from the congregation to be asked of the candidates. The questions selected by the Nominating Committee were posed to each candidate who responded to them following the presentation of their personal statements about their candidacies. The first vote was cast by paper ballot.

STATE OF THE PARISH: The Rev. Morgan introduced the staff and expressed appreciation for them and several lay leaders who had been especially helpful during the transition in clergy. She reported that ten new members had been confirmed recently. She commented that the Earth Mass was amazing and that the Children's Choir is making good progress, with a teen choir in formation. Altogether 17 children are involved. The children who attend Children's Chapel will be making the decision about how their offerings are used and it is likely that children's activities will be provided during the 5 p.m. service. There will be a special art project during Lent. Plans are underway to have seminarians again. There is a new website coming. The Priest-in-Charge expressed her joy at being asked to stay after her interim period in the role of Priest-in-Charge. The Associate Rector reported that the gun violence vigil would be returning to St. Mark's in December.

NOMINATION OF SENIOR WARDEN AND JUNIOR WARDEN: The incumbents, Senior Warden Peter Sherer and Junior Warden Doris Muller-Burton were nominated for re-election. There were no nominations from the floor and both were re-elected by acclamation.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer, Penny Hansen, noted that St. Mark's has increased its pledge to the Diocese although it is not yet meeting the full asking. Increasing membership is crucial to solving our deficit issue. She expressed thanks to the Finance Committee for their outstanding work.

BYLAWS CHANGE: A proposed change to the Bylaws, allowing the Senior and Junior Wardens to serve a two-year term plus an additional one-year term instead of the present two, one-year terms, was on the agenda for action but was postponed until the 2017 Annual Meeting because the sponsors had failed to post it on the website.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Senior Warden Peter Sherer offered his thanks to the parish for staying together during the clergy transition, having a successful canvass, and volunteering for activities and tasks. He said that the next year's focus would be on membership development.

REPORT ON THE FIRST BALLOT FOR VESTRY: The counters reported that Stephanie Deutsch and

Beth Mahood were elected on the first ballot. A second ballot was necessary to choose between Thia Hamilton and Shay Waye.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Junior Warden Doris Burton reported that the job has been very demanding. She offered special thanks to Charlie Rupp, Kenn Allen and their wives, as well as to Nora Howell, other members of the Fabric Committee, Jack Burton, Manciple, and Peter Sherer.

REPORT ON THE SECOND BALLOT FOR VESTRY: The counters reported that Thia Hamilton had been elected to the third seat on the Vestry.

NOMINATION FOR DIOCESAN DELEGATE: There were no additional nominations from the floor. Jim Steed was unanimously elected to serve as Delegate to the Diocesan Convention.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES: Steve Dalzell recognized those who participated in the search process and organized the transition to the new Director, Caroline McReynolds-Adams, who expressed appreciation for the welcome and support she has received since beginning her work.

APPRECIATIONS: The Rev. Morgan thanked those who offered themselves as candidates for Vestry but not elected. The Senior Warden thanked Nadine Hathaway and Jim Ashley for chairing the Discernment and Search Committee. Tributes were expressed and gifts given to retiring Vestry Members Gwen Dillard, Nora Howell, and Mary Thuell and retiring Treasurer Penny Hansen.

ADJOURNMENT: The closing prayer was offered by the Priest-in-Charge and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper
Register

RECTOR'S REPORT: The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

It has been an amazing year: I cannot tell you how happy I am that I have journeyed with this community the past year and I am even more excited to be with you for a much longer journey as your Rector.

I would like the parish to focus on hospitality in the years ahead. We absolutely crushed this for people who came to our community during the inauguration. We have heard our people were the hands and feet of God as we opened our home to those visiting the Capitol. We also helped people during the Women's March. We need to be nimble to respond to other opportunities that arise. I am deeply indebted to Kenn Allen, Michael Knipe, Victoria Doyan, and the many, many others who helped out to make these events happen.

Worship: We are blessed to have many hands to make our liturgy work at St. Mark's. We continue to try to have smart, innovative, and emotional ways to gather as a community and celebrate the 'kindom' of God in our midst.

Art in Worship: We spent Advent '16 creating a 6' tall Madonna and Child out of ads from shopping circulars, turning the consumerism of Black Friday into the breaking of the Christ Child into the world.

Staff: I continue to have the joy of working with Justi, Jeff, and Caroline as program leaders. It is a gift to be able to work with people who care deeply about the congregation and I feel that care

and attention when I am working, planning, or sharing information with them about the wants and needs of the parish.

I am blessed with Patricia who takes care of our resources and often connects these dots to the wants and needs of the congregation. After seven months as Parish Administrator, Diana Church married and was off to Connecticut with her beloved. She continued as Bulletin Coordinator until January 1 when she became Development Coordinator for Yale Divinity. She is missed as we all enjoyed her presence in our lives during the last year. Although it was sad to say goodbye to Diana, we have had the great good fortune to hire Andrea Wood, an amazing and awesome addition to our staff. She has already gone above and beyond any expectation handling the rental of our building. Andrea is showing up and helping people; she and Jerry Dale from The St. Mark's Players are a formidable team for creating great rental space for us. We hope for a reputation as a premier rental space and to become more and more flexible as we move towards the ultimate goal of having the building pay for itself.

Contractors: We are still living into the first year with our new cleaning contractor, PMM. It has not been the easiest of transitions but, with the help of Andrea, we are becoming more attuned to dealing with their needs as they are working with ours.

Teaching: Last fall I taught the new *Belongings* class (formerly LCF) with Matthew Ossolinski, Jennifer Dalzell, and Linda Ewald. We had an amazing group of new and long-time people help us explore what the idea of 'belonging' means in the context of St. Mark's.

I taught three sections of *Newcomers* with Caroline McReynolds-Adams with about 15 people moving through these classes.

I am currently teaching a class called *Confirm not Conform* with 9 young people who may choose to be confirmed April 30th when the Bishop will be here for her visitation.

We have started a 'White Privilege' class in which we will be examining the idea of where 'whiteness' comes from and what we might do with that concept. The purpose is to explore these issues so we can engage in deeper and more robust work for racial justice, particularly within our congregation.

Pastoral Care: We have seen our efforts pushed to the edge as we scramble to cover the needs of the parish. A team of parishioners is working with me to divide up the District-Maryland-Virginia neighborhoods into sectors so we can cover more and more territory as a result of the retirement of our very cool Linda Ewald who has been the head lay pastoral caregiver.

Newcomers The Membership Committee is active in greeting new people and inviting them into our communal life and the addition of nametags has made a difference helping them and the long-time members get to know each other on Sundays.

Outreach I serve as a member of the Outreach Board and am so pleased with the work being done and the care with which our members are reaching out past the walls of St. Mark's. I would be remiss if I did not thank the people who have stepped up to help with the 'Sunday Suppers' as we have (actually, Lisa and Dan Ramish) stepped into the leadership of this important activity.

I have tended an altar in the midst of community on and off for the last 13 years yet I cannot find words to tell you how it feels to have a home I get to claim. I am thrilled to be walking with you.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT: The Rev. Rebecca Justice Schunior

Friends,

There's no denying it: 2016 was a tough year for many people, both personally and politically. National strife couldn't help but leak into our daily lives. My hope is that St. Mark's has been a place of solace and exploration as we seek to live out more fully our call to be people of love and justice.

The highlights for me this past year include the successful development and implementation of a new website. While I believe we have more to do to tell the story of who we are, our new website is accurate and attractive! We added a number of special services this past year seeking to blend our Episcopalian tradition of liturgy with the needs of the current age, for example, "Prayers for our Nation" on the eve of the election. I've met with 31 newcomers to the church for coffee and discussion about St. Mark's and we held the 4th Annual Vigil for all Victims of Gun Violence on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, as well as hosting the Newtown Action Alliance for their annual lobbying days.

As always, thank you for inspiring me and being my coconspirators in ministry!

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 Rector with presiding, co-presiding, and preaching during our weekly worship services including three services on Sunday and one service on Thursdays at noon.
- 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. We added a new Tenebrae service with modern readings and music during Holy Week. On July 4 we had a service of lessons and music for our nation. In honor of the opening of the African American Museum of History and Culture we held a service with special readings and music.

Teaching I led a four week class on the history and theology of the Eucharist.

Pastoral Care

- Visitation - I call on parishioners in the hospital and in their homes to provide pastoral support.
- Counseling – I meet with parishioners to address concerns that affect their personal and spiritual life.
- Pre-Marital Instruction –I have worked with three 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 contact information. This year I met with 31 newcomers.

- After months of research and in consultation with the diocese and other churches, we are moving forward with purchasing and implementing a new membership database. This is more exciting than it sounds: the new software will enable more users to manage data and share it with one another, even work offsite. It will also allow parishioners to access their own data and provide updates to contact information, etc. Photo directories and member information will be

easy to access for all of us.

- *Carols & Cheer*– With Jeff Kempskie, I have hosted *Hymns & Hoopla* (formerly Beer & Hymns) twice this year. These have been popular with longtime parishioners and newcomers. At this year's *Carols & Cheer* we had a record number of more than 90 participants.

Outreach

- Capitol Hill Group Ministry – I am involved with various aspects of CHGM work on Capitol Hill, including attending the quarterly clergy breakfasts.
- We hosted the 4th Annual Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence December 14, 2016. More than 300 people attended the vigil and 100+ people came from across the country to lobby Congress for common sense gun violence prevention. 50+ people from St. Mark's served as volunteers. We are already beginning plans for the 2017 vigil that will take place on December 6 and 7.
- Race & Diversity – I have been working with a team led by parishioner Katherine Anderson helping St. Mark's become a more inclusive and welcoming parish for people of color. This effort led to a workshop offered for the parish in the summer of 2016 with another in early March.

Communications

- I meet with the Communications Working Group to improve the website and to facilitate the implementation of the new membership database. I continue to send out weekly E-gospel newsletters and special announcements via Constant Contact.

I look forward to this coming year, supporting Michele, our new rector, and the ministry of St. Mark's. While we are a busy community, I am never too busy for your calls or visits. Always feel free to make an appointment or contact me about anything on your mind and heart.

Peace,
Justi

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Jeff Kempskie

The music program continues to develop and expand. Over the past year the Chancel Choir gained several new singers and improved in its organization. The Handbell Choir, after a hiatus of several months, regrouped and resumed rehearsing. Members of the Boys & Girls Choir continued growing and developing their skills and the Teen Choir sang successfully several times.

Chancel Choir

Ten new singers, many of whom are young, joined the choir during the past year. The group has had to adjust the seating to accommodate the overflowing choir risers during some Thursday night rehearsals! The paid tenor section leader, a position that has thankfully been included in the budget since 2016, continues to benefit the choir tremendously. The consistent presence of a strong tenor at rehearsals and both morning services helps ensure that the choir can consistently sing regular four-part harmony, maintain its high standards, and sing good quality repertoire. A lot of behind the scenes work has been taking place to streamline and improve the overall organization of the group and to create more cohesion between its members. Besides singing for Sunday mornings, including some during the summer, the choir sang a Choral Evensong service in June, 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 mid-February.

Boys & Girls Choir

The Boys & Girls Choir (BGC) is doing well under the direction of Libbi Rivera, whose position has very thankfully been included in the budget since 2016. The group is currently in a bit of a "rebuilding phase" since its oldest members aged out and started the Teen Choir in the late spring. This has provided a new generation of young choristers the opportunity to take the lead and continue learning the necessary skills to be successful choir members. We are thankful to Conrad Chaffee, the father of choristers Caleb and Gideon, who has taken on a more active role with the BGC by regularly accompanying them on the piano for rehearsals and performances and by substituting for Libbi when necessary. The BGC began the fall season with its sixth annual choir retreat and joined the Chancel Choir in singing part of the *Earth Mass* in early October.

Teen Choir

The Teen Choir has successfully completed its first full year thanks to the continued participation of several teens and the dedicated work of director Nadine Hathaway. Currently made up of just three members, the choir is sounding quite good and has successfully performed a wide variety of new repertoire over the past year. The group has been working on singing in harmony and developing musicianship. Two of the singers, Annadora Garner and Kyle Lloyd, once again attended the Royal School of Church Music Summer Camp (partially supported by St. Mark's), bringing their knowledge and skills back to St. Mark's in the fall.

Handbell Choir

After a 9-month long hiatus, the Handbell Choir regrouped and resumed rehearsing again in September, this time under the management of Katherine Anderson and the co-direction of Martha Connor-Donnelly and Sarah Headley. Focused less on performing, the reorganized Handbell Choir has decided instead to be more like a club with the primary goal of having fun while allowing its members to learn handbell techniques and simpler repertoire. In addition to the continued participation of a number of long-term members, the ensemble also gained a few new ringers since the fall and hopes to play for worship services in the near future.

Instruments

The Holtkamp organ remains in fairly good working order with only minor problems over the past year. It needed to be tuned once more than usual (at a cost of \$500+) due to the frequent propping open of the nave/foyer door and the increased changes in humidity and temperature that that brings. Signs have been posted and we are continually reminding people to avoid keeping the nave/foyer door propped open for extended periods of time. 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

- Rosie Brooks and I collaborated once again and repeated the specially-composed (2015) piano/cello/dance on Palm Sunday.
- Justi and I hosted another successful 'Hymns & Hoopla' event in June.
- Six Baroque Bonanza II concerts took place in June.
- We held the well-attended 'Carols & Cheer' hymn sing in mid-December.

- I composed piano music and brought in two professional dancers to perform “Mary & Gabriel: An Advent Dance” on the fourth Sunday of Advent.
- The annual Twelfth Night/Epiphany Concert with *Armonia Nova* took place in early January.
- St. Mark’s hosted four concerts by the *Chiarina Chamber Players* over the last year.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES: Caroline McReynolds-Adams

The mission of the Youth and Family Ministries program is to be 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.

The strategic focus of the YFM program this past year was to organize our various events and activities into a comprehensive map that defines the connected hope we have for children from the age of 0 to the age of 18. A draft of that map (see page 19) was completed in the summer of 2016, and we will continue to edit and hone this document in the months to come.

2016-17 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

I. Worship

- **Family Eucharist:** We have continued to offer a 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 Sunday at 9am. This ‘kid-friendly’ service is designed for children ages 2-6 and encourages participation, ritual, shared prayer, and singing.
- **Christmas Pageant:** We celebrated our traditional Christmas pageant, organized and produced under the excellent leadership of our ‘Mother-of-Mary’, Thesia Garner, and ‘Mother-of-Joseph’, Beth Mahood. With assistance of a dedicated cadre of helpful parents, we increased youth participation from 2015.

Youth participants:51 *Youth participants in 2015: 39*

2. Christian Education/Sunday School

Sunday School: I serve as a resource for the Sunday school program and its teachers by coordinating and compiling registration for students and offering support for teachers and the teaching materials/curricula/ideas and assisting with general weekly needs.

3. Non-Sunday school Sundays: Family Fellowship Events (see below).

• **Middle School & High School**

Each Fall and Spring the middle and high school youth bookend their Sunday school year with a retreat (for the high school youth) and a lock-in (for the middle school youth). The primary goal for these events is for the community to bond, relax, and have fun.

• **High School Spring Retreat**

When: April 9-10

Where: Blue Ridge Summit, MD (home of Ann Craig)

Theme/Activities: Cigar Box Time Capsule art project, group dinner prep, movie, mini golf
Chaperones: Rita Ossolinski, John Imahori, Jan Lipscomb
Participants: 12 *Spring Retreat 2015: n/a*

- **Middle School Spring Lock In**

When: March 12-13

Where: St. Mark's

Theme/Activities: Telling Stories—Inside/Out Self Portrait art project, group video challenge, "Murder in the Nave" (movie), Eucharist w/Michele

Chaperones: Eric Smith, Jane Sherman, Beth Mahood, Peter Nye

Participants: 12 *Participants in 2015: n/a*

- **High School Fall Retreat:**

When: September 24-35

Where: Claggett Retreat Center

Theme/Activities: Video Challenge, glow in the dark kickball, bonfire, labyrinth, new beginnings mural, prayer flag art

Chaperones: Fay Johnson

Participants: 14 *Participants in 2015: 8*

- **Middle School Fall Lock In:**

When: September 17-18

Where: St. Mark's

Theme/Activities: Inside Out—Circle Painting art project, minute to win it group games, hide and go seek, Compline, movie

Chaperones: Jessie Babcock, Jane Sherman, Meredith Sherman

Participants: 14 *Participants 2015: 11*

4. Outreach

Service Trips are an important part of the YFM program. During these experiences, youth build community with one another, learn about service and outreach, and have fun! This was the first year we organized a middle school service trip, an initiative with the goal of introducing them to service opportunities at a younger age and beginning that community bonding earlier to better ensure participation throughout high school years. The experiences were culminated with a Service Trips Celebration in August when youth provided lunch for the parish while sharing stories of their trips. More than 50 parishioners attended to hear from the youth and celebrate with them.

- **High School Service Trip: New York City**

When: June 26-July 7

Where: New York City

Service Partner: Youth Service Opportunities Project

Service work: Various homeless outreach organizations

Chaperones: Heather Powers, Stewart Andrews

Participants: 14 *Participants 2015 : 8*

- **Middle School Service Trip: West Virginia**

When: July 14-17

Where: Harpers Ferry, WV

Service Partner: For Love of Children's Outdoor Education Center

Service Work: Environmental Justice/Creation Care + Team Building

Chaperones: Andrew Stafford

Participants: 5 *Participants in 2015: n/a*

5. Other Outreach Projects:

- **Light the Night Walk to End Lymphoma and Leukemia Bake Sale and Walk:**

What: To offer support to the family of Henry Burneson, youth and their families held a bake sale to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society as well as participating in the walk at Freedom Plaza as part of 'Team Henry'.

When: October, 2016

Money raised at bake sale: \$850

Participants at bake sale: 16 youth; at walk: 12

- **CHGM Family Night (August)**

What: YFM coordinated with Outreach to purchase backpacks and school supplies for the Family Night for the children of shelter families.

When: August 14: Backpack stuffing August 22: Family Night

Participants: 10 *Participants in 2015: n/a*

- **CHGM Family Night (December)**

What: Middle and High School youth coordinated with Outreach to purchase toys and books for children and shelter families

When: December 11: gift shopping/wrapping December 19: Family Night

Participants: 22 *Participants in 2015: 15*

6. Family & Parish Life Events

These events 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.

- **Annual Family Ski Trip** – A weekend trip for families to Canaan Valley, WVA, over President's Day Weekend

Participants in 2017: 55 *Participants in 2016: 44*

- **Walking After Jesus**—A new event for children to follow the steps of Jesus in the days leading up to his crucifixion. Parishioner volunteers dress up as the characters Jesus encountered and the children interact with them to acquire a deeper sense of the story

When: Holy Saturday, March 26

Children: 8 Parishioner volunteers: 7

- **Easter Activities** – 10am Egg Hunt + 5pm Egg Hunt

- **Annual Parish Retreat (Claggett)**— Under the leadership of Erika Lehman, youth and children put together a short play based on the Shel Silverstein poem 'The Missing Piece'. Other activities included games, swimming, bonfire, nursery for younger children.

When: June 11-12

youth/children: 13 *youth/children in 2015: 0*

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

When: September 11

Youth volunteers: 10 Child participants: 23

- **Halloween Dance**— Children's arts and crafts and a movie at the dance.

When: October 29

children: 24

7. Family Fellowship Events- Post-Sunday School time of fellowship for all children/youth and their families:

- a. March 6, 2016: Board Game Party: attendees: 11
- b. May 1, 2016: Indoor Picnic: attendees 12
- c. January 9, 2017: Art and Ice Skating: attendees:18

8. Parents Groups

We have created two new groups designed to help support parents: one for parents of young children (parent volunteer: Kate McFadden) and one for parents of teens (parent leads: Thesia Garner, Julie Murphy). The goal of these groups is to provide a space where parents can have open conversations about the trials and triumphs of parenting. The average attendance for these groups is 12 parents

- **Young Families Parenting Group**

April 2; May 14; June 25; October 15; November 20, 2016

- **Raising Teens Parenting Group**

April 17; June 5; October 23; December 4; February 5, 2017

9. Communications

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

- **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. The average attendance is 25 parents.

Summer Meeting: May 8, 2016

Fall Meeting: September 18, 2016

Spring Meeting: January 15, 2017

10. Youth Activities Board— This board is designed to assist me with program operations, logistics, and planning. The group consists of 6 parents, and recently added 4 youth (2 Middle School representatives and two High School representatives) to the team. The Youth Activities Board meets monthly.



ST. MARK'S YOUTH PROGRAM (Draft)

Pre K-K	1 st -3 rd Grade		4 th -5 th Grade			
THEME: I AM KNOWN AND I AM LOVED...	... SO HOW WILL I ACT IN THE WORLD...		...AS PART OF GOD'S COMMUNITY?			
SCRIPTURE: Love: Jesus as the Good Shepherd	Right and Wrong: Parable of the True Vine		Responsibility: Maxims, 10 Commandments			
WORSHIP: Children's Chapel, Family Eucharist, Christmas Pageant, Banner Sunday	Children's Chapel, Family Eucharist, Christmas Pageant, Banner Sunday, Boys and Girls Choir		Family Eucharist Leaders, Christmas Pageant, Banner Sunday, Boys and Girls Choir			
OUTREACH: Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night		Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night			
COMMUNAL LIFE: Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Easter Egg Hunt, Parish Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Easter Egg Hunt, Parish Retreat		Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Easter Egg Hunt, Parish Retreat, Camp EDOW			

6 th - 8 th Grade	9 th -12 th Grade					
WE ARE LOVED REGARDLESS...	...SO WHAT ARE WE CALLED TO DO? (Big Questions)					
THEME: Complex Individuals	Complex God	Love by Our Community	Self and Others	Belief and Unbelief	Justice and Inequality	Endings and Beginnings
SCRIPTURE :Identity Crisis: Joseph, Moses, Exile narrative	Right and Wrong: David	I Have a Choice: Adam/Eve, Cain/Able +	Identity in Relationships: Mark; Genesis	Religion in Our Lives : Matthew; Amos	Social Activism: Luke; Job; Abraham/Isaac	Life Transitions: Psalms,
WORSHIP: Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday	Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday	Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday	Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday	Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday	Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday	Family Eucharist Leaders, Acolyte, Christmas Pageant, Teen Choir, Banner Sunday
OUTREACH :Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip	Grate Patrol, CHGM Family Night, Summer Service Trip
COMMUNAL LIFE: Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat	Parish Dances, Parish Picnic, Parish Retreat, Fall Lock-In, Spring Retreat

Confirmation: Part of a Community

St. Mark's history, Episcopal Church history, Liturgical background

Senior Warden: Peter Sherer

2016 was a banner year in the life of the parish as the Vestry called Michele Morgan to serve as our Priest-in-Charge. Then, after completing a thorough Strategic Ministry Review, the Vestry unanimously called her to become our 12th Rector. These decisions returned the church to reassuring stability after more than a two-year search for new clergy leadership.

As usual, hundreds of people volunteered their time this year to produce wonderful music by the choir, appealing worship services, a vibrant Sunday school, useful adult classes, a successful canvass, and opportunities for community celebrations such as Maundy Thursday dinner, the Halloween dance, and the annual church picnic. Volunteers also served on more than a dozen committees that fueled the life of the community including a new Communications Working Group that developed a widely appreciated overhaul of our website.

This was also a year in which the Vestry systematically involved the parish in the major governance challenge of growing our membership sufficient to finance future church operations. In April, forty leaders met at the Roslyn Conference Center to discuss approaches to attracting fifty new members each year when the current rate of annual new membership is closer to fifteen. We need to have this kind of growth in order to meet financial needs. The group analyzed what attracted them to St Marks, why they chose to stay, and when they felt like they belonged as members of the community.

The discussion led to a consensus that these topics should be discussed with a larger group at the next annual retreat held at the Claggett Conference Center in June. More than 140 people attended the conference and decided, among other steps, that an important start to attracting new people was to provide food and drinks as hospitality for visitors after both morning services. Attendees signed up to provide hospitality for the next six months and the program has proven to be a major success.

Another management response to the need to increase financial resources was the Vestry decision to create a Stewardship Committee that would have overall strategic responsibility for the canvass, a reenergized planned giving effort, an active Membership Committee, and a capital campaign to retire the church's \$1.1 million mortgage by 2020.

A remarkable test of our hospitality skill took place over the weekend of the presidential inauguration and the Women's March on Washington. More than fifty volunteers provided food and drinks to 2,500+ visitors who were generous with their praise and donations. Our response was a confidence-building measure as we understood that our facilities are hardy enough to handle a crowd of this size.

On the church policy front, the Vestry developed two: one on the use of alcoholic beverages and another on the use of photography. The alcohol policy insures that equally attractive non-alcoholic beverages would always be available whenever alcohol is served and that alcohol would not be served at meetings when church business was being discussed. The photography policy stressed that no photography would take place during worship services without the permission of the clergy. Furthermore, no image of any parishioner could be uploaded onto the internet without the permission of the person photographed.

This year has begun a serious inquiry into our future. While there is no early consensus, a theme

that seems to be emerging is that social justice issues will become a larger focus of our life together. The enthusiasm for continuing to host the National Vigil to Prevent Gun Violence (December) and the energy of many who question the early activities of the new administration suggests increasing interest in issues beyond our walls. It will be exciting to see how the Spirit moves us next as we strive to live into our vision “to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.”

I could not end without expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Doris Burton, our Junior Warden, and her hard working and intelligent Fabric Committee. Doris has instituted important new management systems that have increased efficiency and made the job of her successors infinitely easier. I also want to thank the members of the two Vestrys that I served with who took on the important function of calling a new rector in addition to their regular significant governance responsibilities.

It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Junior Warden: Doris Muller-Burton

The Junior Warden is, by definition, responsible for the care of the building. This includes not only repairs but also improvements as appropriate. S/he is assisted by the Fabric Committee, reinstated in 2014, to serve as assistants and advisors re: projects s/he wishes to undertake as well as assisting with securing bids and any information required to complete a project.

The current Fabric Committee includes former Junior Wardens and Vestry members, a former Senior Warden and co-chair of the Visision2020 project, a representative from the Green Lions and several interested parishioners. I cannot express my gratitude for their consistent support and willingness to help with anything and everything these past two years: Jack Burton, Manciple, Kenn Allen, Michael Bloomfield, Pete Eveleth, Fritz Henn, Nora Howell, Christina Herman, Jack Richards, Charlie Rupp, and Andy Wenchel. Thanks also to Susan Sedgewick, our dependable trash-hauler and Marlan Green’s trusty truck, ‘Priscilla’, and to Ben Schaibly, our able garden consultant.

The Committee met monthly, often for carry-in dinner and ended with ‘field trips’ to parts of the building affected by the next project. Our meetings were filled with historical anecdotes, details and laughter. Most of the current members agreed to continue their support for my successor.

We had a very busy year with greater order brought to the job, a significant number of completed projects and improvements made to our property. I must note with gratitude the support of the Finance Committee, and John Edwards in particular, for our request that we increase the JW budget to cover a contract with Monarc Construction as our all-encompassing maintenance company. Monarc responds quickly to emergencies and with thoroughness to needs small and large. Brian Newhouse, our on-site supervisor, and Glenda Vasquez Cooper, our office contact, have overseen nearly all the major repairs to the building (except the nave windows), supervised inspections, evaluated the condition of the building (an annual part of the contract), including getting our garden sprinkler system running in spring and closed in fall. Had they been on board in winter 2016, I could have called on them to shovel the big snowfall.

Between Monarc, the Fabric Committee, and an ever-increasing list of resources, the job of Junior Warden is no longer onerous but one that can be done by someone with the interest in learning about and improving a 150-year old beautiful, interesting building.

Staff: We began with an enormous change for the community when, in April, we said goodbye to our 30+-year maintenance contractor, Ed Green, and his crew. Fabric had recognized the need for a fresh start for our restored property. With assistance from Nora Howell and membership in Community Purchasing Alliance, hired an experienced cleaning service, PMM. We saw a financial saving with both salary and supplies as PMM provides most of the cleaning equipment and supplies we formerly purchased. There has been a steep learning curve for them and us. Green's Maintenance knew, often before we did, what needed to be done for liturgical events. Creating a template for those events has been as challenging as the cleaning schedule for Fabric, staff and parish. By this April, our 1-year anniversary, we should be close to settling everyone into a normal and expected routine.

Garden: In May, we held our second workday. Nearly two-dozen volunteers raked, weeded, trimmed, and planted. This year's new benefit was the labor from four groups who cared for one of the courtyard quadrants each throughout the summer: Maureen Shea, Karen Getman, Cecile Jones, Thia Hamilton, and Kathryn Powers...our 'St. Fiacre's Guild'! Our garden was at its best for the entire summer. In November, another stalwart team surprised the JW with an unplanned/unannounced morning raking leaves. We installed a locked box for tools and supplies in the garden for use by the St. Fiacre's Guild members.

Kenn Allen convinced the city to replace several dead trees in boxes along our sidewalks with watering help from Maureen Shea and Kathryn Powers; Andy Wenchel and Bill Dickinson re-installed and leveled the flagstone Celtic cross, and Nora Howell and Fritz Henn joined me pulling the ivy off the south wall of the nave and de-trashing the alley alongside the yellow house.

Kitchen continued to be a black hole for this JW. Our Hobart dishwasher needed a significant (\$800) repair again but still cheaper than replacement. Keeping the kitchen tidy and ready for renter use after Sunday activities, making sure supplies were ordered and shelves stocked was a regular part of my Tuesday work. Coffee service continues to be a big improvement managed by a team of 11 volunteers. We could certainly use a Kitchen Maven to take on the task of general oversight.

Nave: This was the focus of much attention with projects small and large.

- Tom Getman volunteered to sand and re-poly the high altar rail single-handedly (after getting a splinter!)
- Universal Floors sanded the chancel parquet floor for its first re-finishing in memory. They used Water-Lock, a new finish recommended by Jo Ellen Hayden as a trial for possible future use when the next full sanding of the nave floor is scheduled.
- In February 2017, the broken terrazzo along the north and south ends of the wood floor was removed and replaced. The shattered Tennessee pink marble step to the high altar was also replaced and a loose marble capstone on the old steps to the chancel fixed in place. All of this work was covered by the generous gift from the late Bert Cooper that also funded the window project.
- When a lantern bulb blew, Charlie Rupp suggested we re-do the units. The LEDs were not working with the existing fixtures so Charlie installed new four-bulb units in each lantern so

when one bulb blows, that area of the nave still has light. His first LEDs proved to be too blue-white so, after numerous complaints, all were replaced with warmer LEDs. Even so, the lights still produced a glare. Once again, Charlie rescued us by installing inexpensive plexi-glass diffusers on the lantern bottoms (the old, glass diffuser panels had long been removed because the incandescent bulbs burned them and they were extremely difficult to remove when a bulb burned out).

- At Michele's request, the clergy platforms were removed (and stored). Extra Sedalia benches (for acolytes and additional clergy) have been moved to the chapel anteroom pending a decision about their future usefulness.
- An expensive and unexpected repair came, once again, in the form of air handler unit (AHU) 5, serving the east side of the nave. In early fall, noise was diagnosed as a badly damaged fan. Because of age, the part had to be machined (as opposed to buying one 'off-the-shelf'). While we managed without the unit for fall, the expense had to be borne as winter arrived since, without it, the east side of the nave would be very cold. It is a fact that the replacement of this and the other aging AHUs will be an expense we will need to face hopefully later rather than soon.
- The major and highly gratifying project this year was the work on the stained glass. With a substantial gift from the estate of Bert Cooper, Fabric was able to undertake what turned out to be important work. After months of planning, securing permits, and conferring with Historic Preservation Commission, the Fine Arts Commission, assisted by Emily Eig of *Traceries, Inc.*, Associated Crafts began work in October. The Lexan coverings were removed from all windows both floor and clerestory; frames and sills were sanded, re-caulked and painted, and the windows cleaned. Laminated glass was then installed (with air-vents to reduce heat damage) on the floor-level windows. A few anomalies showed up: three window panels had bulges, one quite significant; the lead was heated and pressed to flatten, then bars installed to maintain that evenness. One badly bulging window had to be removed for that work to be done. One round window in the tower had so many small repairs that it could not even be handled. It was removed and shipped for restoration and re-installed in late March, 2017.

Not only are we now able to enjoy the windows with greater brilliance since the original Lexan was installed in the 1950s but we learned some things about them: the center panels opened to allow breezes in pre-air conditioning times; some of the glass is 'plated', that is, extra layers were added to create particular effects. The biggest surprise, however, was the Angel Choir window over the high altar: when workmen removed the Lexan (while on the roof of the yellow house), they discovered a panel of opaque glass behind it. Once removed, the true colors and the brilliance of the window was an enormous surprise to all. Mary Cooper, Bert's widow, noted, "I never knew there was blue in the window!" the yellowed Lexan had turned it green. After careful discussion and upon recommendation, Fabric decided not to cover the clerestory windows at this time. This could be done should funds become available in the future.

Repairs: These have been numerous:

- all the office light bulbs are now LEDs;
- light switches in storage rooms have locator lights;
- settling cracks and a leak in Baxter Hall were repaired and painted;
- the finial on the rector's chair re-glued;
- splintering of the wardens' chairs were sanded;
- the Formica counters in Adams Room 'kitchen' and the nursery bathroom were re-glued;
- the wheels of the hospitality desk lowered to prevent more scraping;

- plumbing issues with sinks and toilets were repaired as needed
- two pieces of liturgical silver were sent out for damage repair
- One of the 100-year old standing candelabra, damaged during a Player's load-in is being repaired
- critters were removed from their hiding places in both nave and office (maggots, be gone!);
- the doors to the nave/BH were re-programmed to eliminate the need for hex keys to keep the doors unlocked;
- new phone and internet service was arranged by Charlie Rupp;
- all the Sunday school windows were re-caulked and a broken pane replaced

New equipment was purchased to make our life work better: additional light plastic rectangular tables of different sizes; a pop-up tent; two dehumidifiers for the damp spots and the too-high humidity in the copier room; two rolling easels to replace the old bulky wood ones for use where wall mounts aren't possible; storage hooks in the copier closet for storing new easel pads; paper towel holders in the pub, kitchen and Adams; hook-and-eye doorstops re-installed for the Sunday school wing; two additional standing floor signs; a magnetic door holder to keep the nave door open; a magazine rack in the Lounge.

Storage changes include making the old Christmas closet (off Adams Room) into a chair/table/easel storage space that is un-locked (for the old black, stacking chairs); the Garden storage room (behind the gate off the parking lot) and the Supply Closet have been cleaned and re-organized to improve space and access; the chair/table storage room (off Baxter) holds organizations' supplies, Christmas décor (including new boxes for lights).

Grounds: Bent fence-posts were straightened (to prevent deterioration) and new wrought-iron door holders installed on the foyer and exterior door to Baxter. The sign on the corner of 3rd and A has gone out for restoration by *Signcraft of Annapolis* along with two brass calendar boxes to the Brass Shop (two will be removed to prevent further deterioration) both thanks to funding through the Endowment.

Signage: The last uncompleted part of the Vision2020 project was room signs to replace laminated paper. We intended these to be installed in 2014 but finding a reasonably priced source stumped the Committee. I took wood left from the old parish hall beams and floor to *Signcraft of Annapolis* who then fabricated the room signs and one for the pub out of this wood, a permanent reminder of one of the project's goals: to build new but to retain as much of the old as possible. These were installed and blessed in March 2017.

Rentals: Upon election in 2015, I was told the JW would now be responsible for renting the building as a way of helping to defray expenses. Along with pulling the new version of the job together, this work almost pushed me over the edge. While I did a significant amount of work updating the contracts and rental information, hiring Diana Church and then Andrea Wood as Parish Administrators enabled me to give my attention to the building while remaining a resource for both as they learned what we can/cannot manage and the equipment and service we can/cannot supply. Our greatest test came in September 2016 when we hosted our first multi-day conference. It turned out to have far more attendees than expected and put a strain on Andrea, the clergy, PMM (only 6-months into their time), and the building. The income was significant (\$10,000) and we learned a lot about what we and our building can handle. Many rentals later, Andrea handles these

with ease but also has generously made herself available when new renters' needs raised concerns.

The rental of the building, both old and new space, is an important contribution Vision2020 hoped to make to the community at large. It has forced us to adjust to spaces not always configured as we expect and hope them to be; yet, the income which drives the rentals will be critical to paying off the mortgage in the coming years.

Throughout my term, I have encouraged parishioner responsibility. Caring for our building is not the job of the Junior Warden and Fabric Committee only but of all of us. The 'Big Clean' of 2017 on Presidents' Day Monday was an effort to encourage that kind of thinking as more than twenty people contributed their labor to the care of the building. That day we cleaned out the floor vents in the nave (filthy from years of dirt and dust), washed off years and years of built-up candle soot from our stained glass windows, cleaned kitchen appliances, polished wood liturgical furniture, and dusted (most of) the rood screen and (most of the) high altar for the first time in many years. This kind of cooperation is essential to maintaining our space for our use as well as for renters.

Our elevator finally passed its first post-construction inspection (three months late and far too costly to make it ready). Our service contract with KONE has not served us as well as expected yet we are committed to them for the foreseeable future.

I have encouraged the shift toward environmental responsibility (recycling buckets have signs above listing what can/can't be), renters as well as parish groups are required to use compostable supplies, and our kitchen now serves coffee in ceramic cups or compostable paper and we use compostable plates and cold cups. Compostable cutlery is available as needed but our continuing use of stainless, begun several years ago, has made even that infrequent. We have, hopefully, said good-bye forever to Styrofoam (now illegal in DC), plastic cutlery, and plastic coated anything.

Our relationship with the Players' and Dance Studio has improved through increased communication. Jerry Dale and Roger Munter of the Players have been our 'go-to' team for renters requiring audio-visual support. Sharing the building's needs and new rules (blue tape only and rolls stored in the foyer closet; No duct tape—anywhere! ever!!) has meant there are more eyes and less damage through the greater use all of us put on the space.

I would be greatly remiss if I did not thank my Manciple (and spouse), Jack (JW, 2003-2005) for his innumerable contributions. His handyman skills saved us money and his advice was essential to my sanity. He spent a significant amount of time walking permits (window and elevator), re-organizing closets over and over (BH, garden, supply, and Adams), tweaking this and that and—on his own, installed white paper behind the Johnson cherry tree photo on Baxter hall barn doors so we can enjoy Tracy Councill's photo; and, when the trees come to the end of their natural life—as they will so fairly soon—we will have the photo as a continual reminder of their beauty.

Thank you, All, for your continuing support these past two years. It has been a great pleasure working with Peter Sherer and an honor to be part of the selection of and getting to know and work with Michele as our 12th rector.

While this work has been incredibly time consuming, sometimes frustrating, and always demanding, my service these past two years has been the most gratifying of my 31 years at St. Mark's. I am proud of the shape of the job and condition of the building I worked for both and pray you will continue to care for your building and your Junior Wardens.

TREASURER

Martha Huizenga, Parish Treasurer

2016 Overview The 2016 parish operating budget was planned to have a deficit of (\$26,803). However, great attention to spending by staff and parish managers in addition to more rentals of our new parish hall and undercroft, allowed the parish to finish with a deficit of only (\$2,752). For the most part, expenses tracked the budget throughout the year. There were some savings in Administration costs incurred due to staff changes throughout the year.

2017 Budget

In January, the Vestry passed the 2017 budget with a projected deficit of (\$18,487). Income is expected to decrease based on the canvass results and an unpredictability of rentals. On the expense side, administrative expenses will see some savings including \$2,400 postage meter rental expense by sending contribution statements via e-mail and a \$2,500 savings by negotiating a new more reliable and less expensive copier lease, while Parochial Ministry and Outreach will decrease through budget cuts. These cuts will help with our new mortgage of \$73,910 per year.

Vision2020* Income and Expenses

We have continued to pay down the loans from the Vision 2020 capital construction project completed in 2014. In 2016 we paid a total of \$122,000 (\$63,000 toward the principle plus \$59,000 for interest and closing costs). The loans have now been rolled into one \$1,085,000 mortgage which will cost approximately \$73,000 per year in interest.

*Vision2020 was the capital campaign which ran from 2011-2014 culminating in the renovation and expansion of the 1926 parish house. It created office space on a newly-installed 2nd floor, renovated the parish hall, now known as Baxter Hall adding storage rooms and a dedicated Winged Lion Pub, renovated the kitchen, dug out the area under the old parish hall thereby creating an extension to the undercroft constructed in 1990. That expansion created three new meeting rooms, the choir room and library, a new music studio, and two new restrooms.



The original parish safe, now residing in the chapel

	2016 Budget Report		2017 Budget
Income			
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>
Pledges	\$855,500	\$811,132	\$802,847
Plate	40,000	33,711	34,000
Other Income	15,600	13,358	11,200
Parish Organizations	9,000	8,228	9,200
Outside Organizations	24,800	48,089	39,800
Vision2020 Income	\$150,230*	137,288*	15,000*
*(V2020 pledges, transfer from V2020 designated fund and solar credits)			
TOTAL	\$1,095,130	\$1,057,691	\$912,047
Expenditures			
Payroll & Related	\$553,433	\$522,479	\$521,604
Parochial ministry	35,100	26,250	27,800
Diocesan Pledge	44,000	44,000	44,000
Outreach/VTS	20,000	19,215	14,900
Administration	73,000	67,118	54,010
Property	253,700	245,530	271,910
V2020 Expense	145,100*	134,929	-----
TOTAL	\$1,124,333	\$1,059,521	\$934,224
*(LOC Interest, Principal and V2020 Expense lines)			
DEFICIT	(-\$29,203)	(-\$ 1,830)	(-\$22,177)

MEMBERSHIP

YEAR	PLEDGE UNITS	PLEDGES ADULTS	CHILDREN/PLEDGING MEMBERS ¹	VISITORS (INCL. CHILDREN)	AVE. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	BAPTIZED MEMBERS ²	COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING ³
2008 ⁴						830	
2009	362	534 ³	137	233	291	+31/-5 =356 ⁵	654 (536A/128Y) ⁶
2010	379	559	142	399	284	+28/-2 =882	676 (541A/135Y)
2011	390	572	143	227	319	+27/-7 =902	715 (572A/143Y)
2012	345	513	145	160	296	+22/-25 =899	720 (575A/145Y)
2013	335	494	109	76	287	+36/-15 =920	740 (580A/160Y)
2104	331	483	103	135	269	+21/-2 =939	759 (582A/177Y)
2015	297	430	n/a	n/a	262	+31/-362 =608 ⁷	608 (377A/231Y)
2016	309	443	153	108	274	+13/-3 =618	618 (375A/243Y)

¹ Age 18/younger

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

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

⁴ Included as a baseline

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

⁶ Adults/Youth

⁷ The drop in numbers from 939 to 608 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

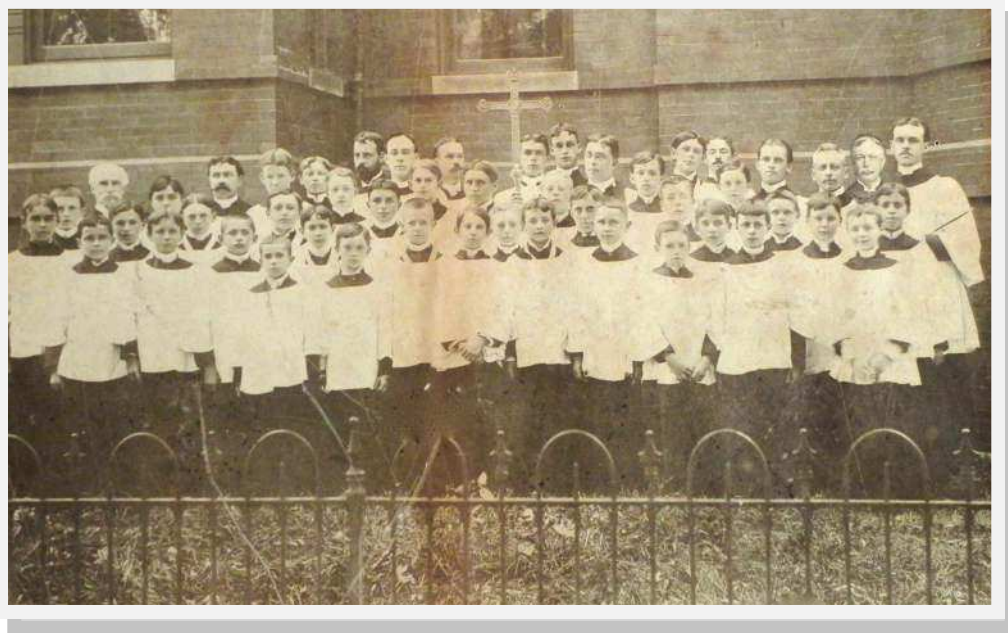
ATTENDANCE

YEAR	SUNDAY	WEEKDAY	PRIVATE	MARRIAGES	BURIALS
2009	104	21	16	4	2
2010	144 ⁸	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
2016	156	48	3	4	8

⁸Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

Marriages: Ricky Eugene Hayes and Richard Francis Warfield; Barbara Marks and Phillippe Brunet; Diana Church and Nathan Empsell; Julieta Denis and Deeben Kang

Burials: Allen Perry Ewald, Eric Wayne, Mona Alcazar, Timothy Allen Ryan. Richard Dobson, Bridget Alley Shiel, Timothy MacBeth Veney, Harvey Crane Miller



The Men and Boys Choir of St. Mark's as the Pro-Cathedra ca 1903 in the 3rd St. Garden

MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY: MARCH 2016-FEBRUARY 2017	
Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden's Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action is listed by month-year (03-16=March 2016)	
VA 03-16	Approved collection of funds for a gift to Green Maintenance staff at the completion of their work for St. Mark's.
VA 05-16	Approved amended version of Diocesan Alcohol Policy for use at St. Mark's activities.
VA 06-16	Approved the auditor's report for 2015.
VA 06-16	Approved proposed policies regarding the use of gifts and bequests for projects related to historic preservation.
VA 07-16	Approved policy with regard to housing allowance for the Priest-in-Charge.
VA 08-16	Approved increase in price for columbarium niches to \$1500, effective January 1, 2017.
VA 08-16	Approved amendment to alcohol policy based on recommendations from parish insurance company.
VA 08-16	Approved policy with regard to photography during services and parish events.
VA 10-16	Approved expenditure of Endowment funds to restore the church sign in the Third Street Parking and restore the calendar boxes near the exterior doors.
VA 10-16	Approved the naming and signage for several rooms in the undercroft.
VA 10-16	Approved sharing of a staff person with Calvary Episcopal Church to work on race and reconciliation issues.
VA 01-17	Called The Rev. Michele Helen Morgan to be the Twelfth Rector of St. Mark's
VA 01-17	Elected Martha Huizenga to be Treasurer of St. Mark's.
VA 01-17	Approved Planned Giving outline.
VA 01-17	Approved updated charter for the Stewardship Committee.
VA 01-17	Approved budget for 2017.
VA 01-17	Approved presentation of an amendment to the By-Laws at the APM with regard to terms for the Wardens
VA-02-17	Approved Outreach Board's proposal to sell tri-language yard signs welcoming neighbors to worship; proceeds to aid refugee families aided by the parish.
VA-02-17	Elected John Edwards as Assistant Treasurer
VA-02-17	Approved the 2016 Parochial Report to the Diocese (electronic)

REPORT ON THE ST. MARK'S ENDOWMENT FUNDS FOR 2016

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% -70% of its assets in common stocks and 30-40% 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 2016 Disbursements and Activities

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. In 2016 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 2016 there were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund. \$20,540 from the sale of columbarium units was transferred to the Fund as the final 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 2016 there were no donations to, or disbursements from, the General Fund.

Verna Dozier Fund: Initially set up in 2000 from funds donated, but not needed, for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory, this fund provides scholarships for college-bound seniors at Dunbar High School who aspire to become teachers. Among criteria for selection is a student essay on the importance of teaching. The DC College Access Program for Dunbar High School selects the awardees. A gift of \$70 was added to this fund in 2016. No scholarships were given in 2016.

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 2016, at the recommendation of the dance board, \$4635 of spendable funds was used for scholarships.

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 2016.

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 2016.

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)
Dave Wellman (Architect) Kim Bayliss

St. Mark's Endowment Funds

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2016

2016 Budget Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

2/9/17

	Total	General	Arts	Building Preservation	Hortaria Capital Improvement	Hortaria Organ Maintenance	Doctor Education	Crainhill Dance
Current Fund Value	808,657	115,771	56,442	230,298	161,942	34,748	54,078	155,378
12/31/2016								
Beginning Fund Value end of 2015	743,087	106,540	52,070	216,122	131,906	32,610	50,683	150,137
12/31/2015								
YTD Change in Market Value since December 31, 2015	48,595	7,122	3,472	14,166	30,036	2,138	3,395	9,876
	6.5%	6.9%	6.6%	6.5%	7.2%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%
New donations/loan repayments during 2016	20,610				20,540		70	
Disbursements during 2016	Scholarships- 121416							(4,635)
	(4,635)							
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of Dec 31, 2015	970,071	135,814	66,169	402,078	144,544	31,034	48,374	152,057
(Average of preceding 12 quarters)								
2016 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2016	48,504	6,791	2,808	20,104	7,227	1,532	2,419	7,603
5% of 3-year Rolling Average Balance								
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009	3,113		8,113			988		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010	3,022		2,054			963		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2011	2,948		1,985			1,030		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2012	3,134		2,104			1,145		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2013	3,661		2,394			1,268		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2014	8,032		2,665			1,422		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2015	42,294	2,617	2,797	26,026				
Subtotal	114,708	9,408	19,920	46,130	7,227	8,348	6,888	16,807
YTD spent	(4,635)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,635)
TOTAL 2016 Budget Funds Available to Spend in 2016	110,073	9,408	19,920	46,130	7,227	8,348	6,888	12,172

NOTES:

CRASHILL DANCE FUND

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

HORTSMA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Two interest-free loans are due to the Fund from the Church's Columbarium Designated Account. The loans are to be repaid as money is collected from columbarium sales. It is the Board's responsibility to initiate requests for transfer of funds annually or as needed.

Loan #1	Loan #2
88/2011 Repayment from Church	25,000
11/30/2011 Balance Due	7,300
4/26/2013 Repayment from Church	32,300
4/26/2013 Balance Due	12,200
2/8/2014 Repayment from Church	30,100
2/8/2014 Balance Due	12,413
7/13/2015 Repayment from Church	27,687
7/13/2015 Balance Due	11,147
12/31/2014 Repayment from Church	26,540
12/31/2014 Balance Due	16,000
12/31/2015 Repayment from Church	20,540
12/31/2015 Balance Due	(20,540)

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE *Katherine Anderson, Chair*

The Membership Committee currently consists of the chair, the Senior Warden, the Associate Rector, and four other parishioners. Our bylaws call for a co-chair, three additional Vestry members (one from each 'class') and at least one additional parishioner 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 2015-2017. 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." We meet approximately monthly to address ways we can carry out our mission.

In 2016-2017 we accomplished the following:

- Implemented the amendment to the definition of "membership" that was approved by the parish at the 2016 Annual Meeting.
- Formalized a "newcomer greeter" program that was piloted in early 2016 and recruited a regular slate of rotating newcomer greeters who received training in how to welcome newcomers.
- Offered training and information sessions to parishioners on strategies to welcome guests.
- Re-introduced the practice of creating and using nametags for our members.
- Reviewed and revised the newcomer information card process by using the back page of the bulletin for the form and organized process for sending a welcome message to those who return cards.
- Introduced a pilot program for newcomers of "First Sundays" with a welcome table between our morning services geared towards folks new to the parish.
- Collaborated with communications team and staff about updating our parish database system.
- Revised our advertising for parish community events to make it easier for newcomers to find in the bulletin.

We look forward to building on the progress of 2016-2017 to continue putting systems in place that foster a sense of welcome and 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 their spouses is held in the spring.

There are currently 54 Elders residing in the Metropolitan area and active. Nationwide, 68 Elders remain in contact. 34 Elders and spouses attended the 2016 Spring Elders' Dinner. No new Elders were inducted this year as all our current Wardens and Co-Directors re-upped for another year of service.

CANVASS/STEWARDSHIP *Nora Howell, Chair*

The Canvass Committee, chaired this round by Nora Howell, conducted an extensive Canvass in the fall of 2016, featuring the second attempt at a true “face to face” Canvass at St. Mark’s in a decade, the first occurring last year. More than 35 canvassers were recruited and every pledging member of the church was assigned to a canvasser. Additionally, we included newcomers, people who had had babies baptized, and those with children in Sunday School. Canvassers made a concerted effort to have a personal 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 March 7 2017, here are the Canvass results as compared to 2016 reported last year:

Year	Pledge Units	Amount Pledged	New Pledgers	Out of Town Pledgers
2016	297	\$804,991	15	12
2017	284	\$812,230	21	8

* 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 2016.

It is significant-and a hopeful sign-that the number of new pledgers has made a significant increase.

There are 10 pledge units who pledged for 2016 but have indicated that they have left the St. Mark’s and will no longer be pledging. Approximately 40 who pledged for 2016 had not yet made a pledge for 2017 as of February 21 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 well-received, although not as enthusiastically as last year. It was clear that there is a need for conversation and interaction among parishioners but, perhaps, because we were in a more stable situation with Michele in charge, there was less need for this. Both canvassers and members 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.

That said, a face-to-face Canvass remains logistically challenging. The management burden on the Chair for a face-to-face Canvass is significant. We recruited a total of 38 canvassers (including myself), which is a terrific result. Each canvasser was assigned 3-7 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. While the 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. Much useful information, particularly about pastoral situations, was gathered and passed along as appropriate. Canvassers reported details from their conversations 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.

The “pre-calls” made during the summer and early fall were particularly well received. Canvassers and ‘canvasees’ alike reported really liking the initial conversation, a “check in” that 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.

As was the case last year, 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 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 20 parishioners who had made no response to the canvass effort. We asked the Vestry to help make the final round of calls to outstanding pledgers.

It’s important to point out that our demographics continue to pose a challenge. Many of our significant 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 putting pressure on the operating budget which had to absorb some significant cuts in order to stay within our forecasted means. 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 most pressing issue facing the community.

In summary, we are enormously grateful for the generous financial support provided by nearly 300 parishioners. We especially want to thank those who are pledging for the first time; and I thank the 38 canvassers who joined us in meeting with parishioners to ask for that financial support. Without you, we could not have had a successful Canvass.

Stewardship

As a result of planning discussions convened by the Senior Warden, the Vestry has approved the creation of a Stewardship Committee that will coordinate fundraising activities such as the annual canvass, any capital campaign to be undertaken, a new planned giving program, and other broad focus fundraising activities. The committee will be appointed and begin work this spring.

DIOCESAN REPORT *Bill Dickinson, Jim Steed, Delegates*

St. Mark's and the Diocese: St. Mark's continues to deepen its relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW). We have gradually increased our yearly support from a current 5.1 % of our annual income toward a target of 10%. Bishop Budde and her staff at Church House (ed. Diocesan offices) continue their support of St. Mark's particularly the process through which we have selected The Rev. Michele Morgan as our 12th Rector. Tom Getman continues to serve on the Companion Diocese Committee (Jerusalem) as does Karen Getman and Maureen Shea. Christina Herman and Bill Dickinson completed their two-year terms on the Diocesan Sustainable Investment Task Force (the result of that effort may be found at <https://www.edow.org/forms-and-resources/finances/sustainable-responsible/>) and Maureen Shea served as moderator of Diocesan Council.

Regional Meeting: October 25, 2016 was a meeting of EDOW South DC Region in which St. Mark's is grouped attended by Rev Schunior and Diocesan delegates Tarantolo, Steed, and Dickinson. Nominations were made for various Diocesan elected offices, the proposed 2017 EDOW budge unveiled, and Maureen Shea of St. Mark's elected as representative to Diocesan Council for newly configured D.C.-South Region. Bishop Budde set forth her vision and aspirations for the entire diocese where parishes, based on the new regional structure, will work together in collaborative ministries. The proposed 2017 budget aligns financial and staff resources to that vision.

EDOW South DC Regional Activities: On November 6, 2016, Rev. Schunior and Delegate Dickinson attended the consecration of the new St. Augustine's Church building in SW Washington. Clearly, this vibrant parish will grow as the SW waterfront develops. Supporting St. Augustine's in this manner is an example of how parishes within a region can celebrate together. And set the stage for future collaboration.

Diocesan Convention: This annual event required by the Episcopal Church Canons was held on January 28, 2017 at the Cathedral. Our official attendees included Rev's Morgan and Schunior and Delegates Steed and Dickinson. Delegate Tarantolo resigned in November 2016 and a replacement was not appointed by the Vestry.

This Convention was one day and was paired with a 'learning day' held in February when the traditional workshops were held. The presentations by nominees for Diocesan elected positions and the chance for delegates to ask questions was limited to information in the form of a 75-word Statement of Qualifications provided on the EDOW website.

The theme of the 122nd Convention was "For a Time Such as This" and was echoed in both The Right Reverend Mariann Budde's address and the sermon.

Held a week after the inauguration of President Trump, the subsequent women's march, and several high-profile inaugural events involving the Episcopal Church, attendees expressed great concern about the future of our country and discrimination against ethnic/religious groups and refugees. What is the appropriate role of our Church? This was reflected in the sermon, the Bishop's address, and several of the resolutions that came before the Convention.

The keynote sermon was delivered by the Right Reverend Andrew Doyle, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Bishop Doyle stressed the work and sacrifices we, as followers of Jesus' gospels, are enjoined to perform in the world. "We are chosen to give away the gifts we have received particularly to the poor and the other. "

Bishop Budde' address reflected on "the condition of our Diocese" and what is now happening in our respective congregations and nation. She stressed the need for parish collaborations particularly within the new regional structure citing several examples where it was working. She also reflected on her assessment of congregational health through the lens of financial and material realities. Of EDOWs 88 parishes, roughly 15% are moving in a positive direction, 15% are in decline, and 70% in a place of homeostasis (data on every EDOW parish can be found in the 2016 Journal and Directory at <https://www.edow.org/about/journal-of-the-diocese-of-washington>). Building up-keep has become the primary ministry of many parishes, while financial dependence on a few members of a parish and the reality of an overall aging population are challenges for the entire diocese.

The proposed 2017 EDOW budget is aspirational given that 59% (\$2.4M) will come from the congregations but is yet not realized. The Bishop urged contributions be increased by 1% a year until every congregation contributes 10% of their income to the diocese. 33 parishes responded to this request last year. 32% (\$1.3) of the Diocese operating revenue comes from the interest earned from the \$30M Soper Trust, a 1967 gift to the Diocese and other parties by Ruth Soper from her Texas oil dynasty. Bishop Budde indicates the highest priority in her budget will be investments in congregations to enhance vitality allowing them to thrive and grow. 14% of the total budget goes to support the National Church and the Diocese will decrease their reliance for operation on the Soper Trust reserving those earnings to congregational growth.

For Bishop Doyle's inspirational sermon, and Bishop Budde's address, EDOW's 2017 Budget, and those (laity and clerical) elected to diocesan office may be found at <https://www.edow.org/about/diocesan-governance/convention/>

The following resolutions were considered at the Convention:

- ◇ Observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: the action suggested for all parishes is to invite a Lutheran congregation to a worship service or other activity to demonstrate our relationship of full communion. Passed without debate
- ◇ Reaffirmation of the Church's Commitment to Social Justice in a Divisive Political Culture: a recommitment to fight unjust discrimination in all its forms including racism, Islamophobia, and sexism: Enthusiastically passed
- ◇ Resolution expressing disapproval of Pastor Robert Jeffress of the Southern Baptist Convention who delivered the sermon at the traditional pre-inauguration service held for the President-elect and his invited guests at St. John's Church+Lafayette Square. The sermon was the antithesis and repudiation of EDOW's position on social justice. This resolution, introduced at the Convention generated many comments and suggested changes. Tabled.

The Bishop called for the establishment of two task forces and interested persons are encouraged to apply:

- Transformational Resources Commission. This group will hold listening sessions throughout the diocese developing information on the needs of the various parishes to expand and improve their ministries and to become more financially sustainable, etc. To apply go to <https://edow.wufoo.com/forms/transformational-resources-commission/>
- National Cathedral Task Force: This group will ponder the role of the cathedral in the life of the diocese, the wider church and the nation. To apply go to: <https://edow.wufoo.com/forms/cathedral-task-force/>

REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP *Linda Chandlee and Mary De Nys, Co-Directors*

Worship grounds all missions of our community, as it does in any church, synagogue, mosque, or temple; these are, after all, “places of worship.” In 2016, we continued St. Mark’s longtime practice of creative approaches to liturgy while embracing the larger traditions of the Book of Common Prayer that has been the mainstay of the Episcopal Church. In June 2016, Worship Co-Directors Jessie Babcock and Valeri Byrd turned over leadership to Linda Chandlee and Mary De Nys.

The Liturgy Planning Team (LPT) 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, especially concentrating on the language and flow of liturgy and on expanding such nourishing practices as the Laying on of Hands and Eucharistic Visitors for housebound parishioners. Through our monthly meetings, we concentrated on enhancing the flow of liturgy and on better integrating children and youth. We continue working to make the monthly LPT meetings a meaningful experience for both laity and clergy.

Highlights from 2016:

March-May:

- ◆ Lent began with our annual tradition of offering the Imposition of Ashes at Capitol South Metro station Ash Wednesday during morning and evening commutes. Each person receiving ashes also received a leaflet, *Ashes to Go*, with a description and explanation of the service and a list of special services and Lenten programs at St. Mark’s. During Lent, we continued the Taizé style of worship introduced in 2015 which incorporates silence, sung prayer, and chant to create a meditative atmosphere. We received a great deal of positive feedback from the congregation about this approach. Every Tuesday evening at 6:30, we offered the service of Compline.
- ◆ Holy Week: On Palm Sunday, “back by popular demand” we repeated the interpretation of the Passion through music, dance, and spoken word commissioned by Jessie Babcock last year. 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 Kempkie. Parish feedback was every bit as positive as it was the year before.
- ◇ This year we initiated specific services for almost every day during Holy Week: Monday was a Liturgy of Confession and Laying on of Hands; Tenebrae moved to Wednesday bringing it in line with traditional observance throughout the Church; Maundy Thursday continued our own tradition of the Agape Meal and leading into the Eucharist which, for the first time, included Washing of Feet; Good Friday service was followed by Stations of the Cross for Social Justice at the Capitol, carrying on our tradition of “worship in the world.”
- ◇ Holy Saturday afternoon offered a creative way for families to engage in the story of the liturgical season with the “Vigil for the Young and the Restless.” This event simulated a journey through Holy Week, placing participants a few steps behind Jesus at every turn. Although the observance was designed for families with children, many other parishioners joined in, and everyone who participated was enthusiastic about the experience. Meanwhile, a group led capably and creatively by Lisa Ramish decorated the nave for Easter. In the evening, we participated in the Inter-denominational Easter Vigil at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation.

- ◆ Great 50 Days: In May, Banner Sunday was celebrated with our traditional procession. Prayers were written by our youth and sermons preached by high school seniors.

June – August

June: we participated in the parish-wide retreat where we explored our community, both individually and collectively. Liturgy Planning Team members assisted in several worship-related activities, including planning the Sunday morning worship service.

September – November

- ◆ September: Canvass Moments were added to services during which parishioners offered thoughts on the important role St. Mark's plays in their lives and the ways that informs their giving.
- ◆ October: a repeat of the beautiful *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass* and blessing of the animals in conjunction with the Feast of St. Francis.
- ◆ October-November: During the period leading up to the election, daily "Prayers for the Election" were distributed electronically. On election eve, Justi led a service of prayers involving readings and recorded music countering the stress and anxiety of the past year with a sense of tranquility and resolve.
- ◆ Thanksgiving service was jointly held at Christ Church+G Street with a meal following.

December – February:

- ◆ Advent: Worship focused on the *Advent Conspiracy* program introduced last year. The *Advent Conspiracy* poses four foci for Outreach: Worship fully; Spend less; Give more; Love all. Each was emphasized in one of the weeks of Advent.
- ◆ The festivity leading to Christmas can be particularly stressful for those who have lost a loved one or who experience other kinds of grief. The Reflective Service of Loss and Remembrance provided a refuge in which sadness could be brought into our sacred space. For the second year, St. Mark's hosted the Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence drawing several hundred people, including families of those killed at Newtown as well as prominent political figures. Some families said that they regard St. Mark's as their home and refuge in this area.
- ◆ Under the leadership of Jessie Babcock, the ministry of Eucharistic Visitors was piloted, linking the distribution of Communion to sick and shut-in parishioners to the community worshipping in church. This ministry was first commissioned in February of 2017.
- ◆ Christmas: The Outreach focus of Advent was the basis for this year's Christmas Greening, organized and carried out with stunning creativity by Lisa Ramish, aided by Sunday school classes and other generous volunteers. The idea was to budget the usual amount for greening but use very little of it and donate the money saved to housing a refugee family. This approach is in line with the concepts of the *Advent Conspiracy* and the result surpassed our expectations. Lisa's approach went beyond the outreach to our vulnerable neighbors for it increased the involvement of the congregation and, not incidentally, resulted in a beautiful, light-filled church for Christmas. As always, the Pageant and the Festival Eucharist were joyous and festive.

January & February:

- ◆ Drawing from the positive experience of the service on the evening prior to the election, we anticipated the inauguration with a service of Prayers for the Nation. Turnout was small, but those

who came were most grateful for the chance to contemplate and to renew a commitment to prayer in this trying time.

- ◆ **February:** We were honored to display a panel from the AIDS quilt commemorating parishioner Frank LeMay as well as display a new panel in honor of the late Vestry member Bill Landers. These were recognized at the morning services with blessing and music. We thank Keith Krueger for this opportunity to reflect on the continuing challenges of the AIDS epidemic and to remember these men who were so central to our community



- ◆ Sally Garr-Brodhead, Keith Krueger, Martha Connor-Donnelly, memory Lynn Kneedler with the panel made in honor of the late member and Vestryman, Bill Landers

The section including the panel made in memory of Frank LeMay, Keith Krueger's late partner.

5 pm Service continues to mature. The original concept of a contemplative service is evolving to include families and children. The play area created last year by Michele Morgan consists of a rug with toys, books, paper and crayons and has been such a success that a similar arrangement has been created for the morning family service.

Laying on of Hands, long a bimonthly feature at the morning services, has been instituted at 5 pm as well.

The following groups support Worship:

Altar Guild: Susan Sedgewick, Joan Schindel, co-chairs

Twenty parishioners serve on the Altar Guild. In addition to a rotating schedule for preparing the altar for the Sunday, Thursday, Holy Week, Christmas Eve and Day services, Altar Guild members maintain the linens and supplies, order candles and palms, support funerals and weddings. The 9am and 11:15am teams meet the Saturday before Palm Sunday and in early December to polish

the silver and brass before Easter and Christmas. This year, historic linens, including a beautiful, handwoven hardangar fair linen cloth created by the late Marlis Jervis, were repaired. Repairs were also made to the silver water cruet and a small silver chalice used on the altar at all Eucharists, and to one of the antique brass standing candelabra damaged during a Player's load-in.

Readers Guild *Raiford Gaffney, Coordinator*

St. Mark's asks parishioners to volunteer to read at the morning services. Generally, there are two readings: scripture, which may be from Hebrew scripture and/or the Epistles, and the Prayers of the People. We also schedule readers for special services such as Evensong, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. Periodic calls for volunteers are made via bulletin and verbal announcements as well via the e-group. Volunteers submit their available dates and times, then the Reader Coordinator develops a schedule so that as many parishioners as possible get a chance to read.

In 2016, 23 parishioners volunteered to read at the 9:00 service and 27 for the 11:15 service.

Vergers *David Deutsch, Head Verger*

Five parishioners are trained to 'verge' or manage the morning services: David Deutsch, Josie Jordan, Michael Knipe, Jan Lipscomb, and Margaret Wood with another four who verge at the 5 pm: Martha Huizenga, Jennifer Cate, Isabelle Cross, and Katherine Anderson as well as David.

The term 'verger' originated with the use of a verge, a kind of stick or prod, to move crowds out of the way of church processions. While we don't need to do that, we do have several verges we use on important and ceremonial occasions: one made by Lynda Smith-Bugge and a second, commissioned by Peter and Mary Parsons of Lichfield, given by the people of Lichfield Cathedral and made by Don Crockett bearing the silver mark of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The Vergers became a presence following the Lichfield Choir tour in 1996. Seeing how well the Cathedral services were 'managed', far better than with our Master of Ceremonies structure, Art Engler instituted the first group trained to this next level. Since then, several of our Vergers have gone on to serve in that capacity at our own Cathedral while continuing to serve us.

Acolytes *Kim Bayliss (youth), Michael Knipe (adults)*

Five young people serve as acolytes at the 9 am service while four adults serve at the 11:15. These liturgy assistants act as crucifers (carry the processional cross), candle bearers, and assist clergy with collection and at the altar. Anyone interested in serving, either youth or adult, can contact the coordinator for training.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Lucy Brown & Joe Calizo, Co-Directors*

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

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

CE, for many years, has been, and remains today the program with the largest participation. From March 2016 through February 2017, Christian Education classes and events touched the lives of about 400 participants, including 80 youth in Sunday School and youth confirmation, 269 adult class participants, 72 leaders of youth and adult classes, with 10 supervisors and 2 Catechesis coordinators, 2 Christian Education Co-Directors, and their supervisor, the Christian Education treasurer, retreat coordinator, and the CE catalog graphic artist.

While some parishioner 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 The Belonging Class (formerly Life, Community, and Faith) facilitated as a 10-week class (no weekend retreats) allowing for a greater number of participants. This is the first time in two years the class had the necessary enrollment to be offered. Similarly, the 2017 Christian Education Weekend was held at St. Mark's instead of at an off-site retreat center and more than 50 people participated. Introduction to Life at St. Marks was offered as a three-session experience providing participants a greater understanding of what it means to be a member of St. Mark's and of the greater Episcopal Church.

The Montessori-based 'Catechesis of the Good Shepherd' curriculum is used with three classes of children, age three through grade five. The program believes 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 leads along with clergy the Youth Confirmation Class and may organize various outreach projects as part of Sunday school classes or as outside activities.

Adult classes include our three introductory "Gateway" classes for newcomers: Introduction to Life at St. Mark's, baptism class (for parents with children to be baptized); and The Belonging Class for adults (formerly 'Life, Community, and Faith') has long been a signature class. A team of three-four facilitators, including clergy, plans and leads class discussions on choices we make in our lives related to being in community and an exploration of faith. The title was changed this year to the 'Belongings Class' focusing on St. Mark's as an inclusive community. The format was also changed to a 10-week course, held mostly in the leaders' and participants' homes without weekend retreats. The retreats in the recent past presented a challenge for enrollment due to the cost and

time commitment required.

This year adult classes looked at a variety of topics such as ‘The Theology of the Eucharist’ and ‘Baseball’. 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.

2016-17 Christian Ed Classes		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Teachers/Supervisors</i>
Catechesis I, II, III (Spring)	35	9 teachers/ 2 supervisors
Catechesis I,II,III (Fall)	41	9 teachers/ 2 supervisors
Middle/High School (Spring)	39	6 teachers/2 supervisors
Middle/High School (Fall)	36	2 teachers/1 supervisor
Spring Baptism	5	2 leaders
Intro to St. Marks (Spring)	9	2 leaders
Intro to St. Mark's (Fall 2016)	7	2 leaders
Belonging Class (formerly Life, Community, Faith)	14	3 leaders/1 supervisor
CE Weekend (2017)	54	4 leaders
Guild (Hal Childs; Spring)	25	1 leader
Guild (Summer Seminar)	20	1 leader
Guild (Intro)	10	2 leaders
Guild (Advent)	20	1 leaders
Sunday Bible Study: Romans	9	1 leader
Sunday Bible Study: Mark	10	1 leader
Wednesday Bible Study: Matthew	12	2 leaders
Wednesday Bible Study: Re-imagine The World	5	2 leaders
Thursday Bible Group (Spring)	5	2 leaders
Thursday Bible Group (Fall)	5	2 leaders
Jesus As Skeptic	14	2 leaders
All The World Is A Stage	10	2 leaders/1 supervisor
Baseball Class	18	3 leaders
Art of the Documentary Film	11	1 leader
Theology of the Eucharist	6	1 leader

OUTREACH *Ruth Ann Hess and Elizabeth Okeke-Von Batten, Co-chairs*

Jane Rutherford, Treasurer; Dan Ramish, Secretary

Members: Sally Garr Brodhead, Michael Knipe, 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 address on-going issues regarding various programs, evaluate funding requests, and review 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 (established 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

Groundswell International, Vecinos Honduras, and Trinidad Conservation Project (TCP) (\$2500) are an out-growth 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) (\$5600) 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 128 bags of groceries and toiletries to SMGW from our altar baskets.

Soup Kitchen/Sunday Suppers (\$1,175) The Soup Kitchen Team and volunteers met monthly and prepared, bagged, boxed, and delivered more than 2,400 sandwiches and donated casseroles to the Sunday Suppers van in Downtown DC. The team continued to promote parishioner-prepared monthly casseroles for the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church (CHUMC), while donating periodic

leftover food and condiments from St. Mark's events to both CHUMC and the Washington City Church of the Brethren.

This year the larger community-wide Sunday Suppers program experienced a lot of turnover and was on the verge of calling it quits. St. Mark's, led by Lisa Ramish, played an important role in keeping the organization afloat by coordinating with other churches to organize coverage for all 4-5 Sundays a month. Likewise, Lisa coordinated with Outreach to develop a short promo video as part of Advent and put out a call for volunteers to increase involvement. The parish responded by contributing casseroles and hardboiled eggs in addition to the usual sandwiches and by showing up to serve and interact with people at the two Sunday Supper site locations. Though there is more work to be done, five months in, the efforts to save Sunday Supers seem to have been successful, thanks in significant part to St. Mark's.

Funded Programs in Addition to the Outreach Pillar Annual Budget
(private donations to Outreach)

Lenten Mite Box Project (\$2120) contributed to two organizations that support refugee resettlement in the U.S. for individuals and families; Episcopal Migration Ministries and Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services.

Shelter Ministry (\$1085) has transitioned from providing hospitality to families who stayed temporarily in the church's undercroft during the summer to providing supplemental support for families served by Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM). These 20 parishioners volunteering their services to provide lunches for a weekly parenting class, and hosting two family nights per year. At the August Family Night, Outreach funded 25 backpacks filled with school supplies; in December, both books and small gifts purchased by our teenagers with Outreach funds were distributed by Santa. Additionally, parishioners 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.

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

Mid-East Working Group *Maureen Shea*

The Mid East Working Group (MEWG) continues to sponsor and publicize a variety of events designed to raise awareness about challenges to peace and justice in the Middle East. Much of our time in 2016 was spent preparing to sponsor a refugee family.

In the coming year, we are committed to continuing this important work as well as trying to determine how best to stand up to the challenges presented by the actions of the Trump administration regarding Muslims and refugees. Karen and Tom Getman will lead a dual narrative trip to the Holy Land in October. This is our third pilgrimage exploring the causes of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and meeting those seeking to bring about peace

Refugee Family: We worked with other faith communities, primarily from Capitol Hill, in cooperation with Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) to provide for the resettlement of a family from Syria or Afghanistan. Before "our" family arrived, we helped furnish apartments for two other families. On January 17, Karen Getman was one of those welcoming the Rasooly family of four from Afghanistan to the United States. They are Hashmatullah (Hashma), 30, his

wife Wazhma, 25, Hadia, 5 going on 6, and her little brother Mudaser. They are now settling into their apartment in Cheverly. With Karen's leadership, we are hosting regular coordinating meetings of all those involved. We are grateful for the many St. Mark's members who have helped to furnish the apartment and volunteered for a number of jobs. Now the hard work begins of helping the Rasoolys adjust to life in America, including finding employment and learning English.

Outreach: Thanks to Mandy Paust who handles our email communication and *Facebook* page, MEWG continues to inform those interested about the many events in the metropolitan area that offer different perspectives on aspects of the Middle East

Highlights from 2016:

- March 10 – Hosted event with Nathan Lean, author of the award-winning book *The Islamophobia Industry: How the Right Manufactures Fear of Muslims*
- Good Friday Offering: at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services collected \$1,900 to support the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Maureen Shea delivered the check to the Archbishop of Jerusalem during a visit there in October
- April 3 – Joined an interfaith Seder sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace at Calvary Baptist Church
- May 16 – Facilitated discussion with Ari Roth, artistic director of Mosaic Theater, as he sought feedback on their first season
- June 29 – Hosted 'New Story Leadership' with a panel of young Israelis and Palestinians sharing their personal stories, the challenges they face, and their visions for the future
- September 19 – Sponsored culinary demonstration and showing of *The Wanted 18* with 'Bright Stars of Bethlehem'. 'Bright Stars' helps to fund the outreach ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem serving the educational, medical, professional and spiritual development needs of Palestinians
- November 2 – Co-sponsored with Woman to Woman a panel discussion of Women of the Middle East. Jennifer Cate, Executive Director of Hands Across the Nile, organized the evening with Edna Boone
- Advent – Again supported Palestinian olive farmers and artisans through the sale of olive oil, ornaments, and nativity scenes. The profits enabled us to donate \$1,200 to assist the Afghan family and \$800 each to Mercy Corps and Save the Children for their work with Syrian refugees
- December 17 – Member of St. Mark's choir participated in the 10th anniversary of the simulcast with Lutheran Nativity Church in Bethlehem. MEWG helped publicize the event.

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

The Green Lions meet on the second Sunday of the month after the 11:15 service in the Rectors 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.

The Green Lions are in their fourth year of activity having been revived in late 2012 by a group interested in spurring St. Mark's efforts to become better environmental stewards. 2016 was a slow year for the Green Lions, but with the advent of 2017 things are picking up. The Junior Warden has advanced our 'cause' by posting recycling signs above the blue buckets to encourage everyone to follow the guidelines and has stocked the kitchen with compostable supplies and requiring renters and parishioners alike to limit the kinds of supplies they purchase.

New members helped plan and execute the showing of a film on climate change from the National Geographic's "Years of Living Dangerously," co-sponsored by the Middle East Working Group and supported by 5:00 parishioners, who helped with the associated potluck. The group plans to help parishioners learn about concrete things we can all do to fight climate change. Plans are afoot to join the People's Climate March on the National Mall in April

ARTS COUNCIL *Chris Herman, convener*

The Arts Council was created in the 1990s to gather arts-related programs under one umbrella. The Yoga Center and the Dance Studio are among the oldest activities in the parish and have the distinct honor of being the heaviest and most consistent space 'users' of our building. Over the years, the Council has sponsored art show/sales and similar projects. Art shows 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 had 97 new student visits in 2016, and averaged 8 students per regular class. The monthly Yoga Nidra/Deep Relaxation also drew an average of 8 students. SMYC contributed \$1,200 to the Church for building use. On March 1, SMYC "held the handle" for @WeThePeopleDC on Instagram, bringing awareness of both the Center and St. Mark's Church to their 29K followers. Special events this year included the 4-part series "Expanding Your Yoga & Meditation Practice"; "Love Your Heart"; "Swami Chidananda Centenary Celebration"; "Energy Medicine Workshop"; and in January 2017 a "Teacher Taster" in which twelve SMYC instructors co-led nearly 40 students in celebration of the New Year and to highlight our 1/2 Price Pass Sale. SMYC strives to keep classes affordable, and when possible offers work exchange to our students. This year's exchanges included helping to clean our mats and digitizing 40 years of paper records. Among the digital records were background documents about the founding of the Yoga Center. One document, written by Rev. James Adams, references starting Yoga classes at the Church in 1974 with another document noting the official chartering of the Yoga Center in 1986.



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

In 2016-17 the St. Mark's Players mounted a full season of productions in the nave as has been our custom. The Players continued their tradition of timely and thought-provoking drama with their Spring production of "12 Angry Jurors" providing a riveting and particularly relevant look at bias in our criminal justice system. Its second production, "Peter and the Star-catcher" was a delightful and rollicking prequel to the story of Peter Pan featuring our own Magdalena Dalzell. Our Lenten offering gave audiences an opportunity to see a seldom-produced, yet engaging production of "Recent Tragic Events" which tackled the themes of self-determinism, fate, and chance in a post-9/11 world.

Music Studio *Jeff Kempfski, Director*

The St. Mark's Music Studio offers music lessons and serves as a modest source of income for the overall church and music program. Adam Caughey, who serves as the tenor section leader for the Chancel Choir, has begun offering voice lessons in addition to Kellie Dragity (formerly McHugh) and Jeff Kempfskie, who teaches piano. 15+ individuals of all ages and levels of ability are 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 20, 2016: Once again, the Dance Studio participated in the Palm Sunday service.

June 4, 2015: We held our two annual recitals: morning for children and afternoon for adults.

Friday, Sept 9 & Saturday, Sept 10: Fall Registration was held. Both days were quite successful.

October 2: Three studio dancers participated in the Earth Day service

Friday, December 2 was our annual Open House.

PARISH LIFE *Marilyn 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, our hope is that, having gotten to know each other, we will be better able to reach out to one another 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

March: Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner begins with a wildly popular cocktail reception in Baxter Hall and a pot-luck agape dinner followed by a meaningful Eucharist. It remains one of the most valued evenings of the year. Raiford Gaffney, chair

April: We celebrated Michele's elevation to Priest-in-Charge starting with a rousing chorus of "Take me out to the ball game" following the recession and a ball-park cookout with hot dogs and all the trimmings.

September: The annual parish picnic was chaired by Stephanie and David Deutsch. Our cook-out was a big hit: wonderful salads, yummy desserts, and drinks in Baxter Hall with some serious grill-

ing outside. Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Caroline McReynolds-Adams was responsible for children's fun in the courtyard. It was a beautiful day and all were happy and well fed.

October: Saints and Sinners Halloween Dance has become a big, intergenerational party with almost 160 attendees: wonderful costumes, a great band featuring former parishioner Julie Parsons, children's activities, adult libations, combined to provide lots of fun for folks of all ages. The dance was another in our long history of festive dances in the nave. Keith Krueger, Chair, worked with a hardy group of Middle Timers and Lambda Lions.

January St Mark's extended its tradition of hospitality to all on January 20-21 providing a warm welcome to visitors for both the presidential inauguration and the women's march, beverages, snacks, access to rest rooms, and plugs to charge phones and other devices. On Friday, January 20, we welcomed about 450 people between 7 AM and 2 PM, primarily those who came to attend the inauguration but also some who came to protest. On Saturday, January 21, we welcomed in excess of 2,200 people between 6 AM and 2 PM. More than 50 members of St. Mark's volunteered to make the two days a success - from standing on the street with welcome signs to making endless pots of coffee; from organizing lines to the rest rooms to responding to individual requests for directions or assistance; from preparing and serving food to giving tours of the nave.

Sunday Fellowship Coffee hour and hospitality have become standard. A stalwart group of parishioners prepare coffee each Sunday: Kenn Allen, Julie Murphy, and Kim Bayliss were joined by Michele Rivard and Margaret Crenshaw as our own baristas and, following the 11:15am service, Jim Steed, Martha Connor-Donnelly, Charmian Crawford, Eleanor Whitman, and Lil Taylor clean up. Each person takes a Sunday. We use ceramic cups, washed by our own Jane Byrne. Our coffee comes from Equal Exchange, and is shade-grown, organic, and free-trade. Parishioners provide goodies and fruit after both morning services. The current Junior Warden manages the coffee supply and schedules the teams.

Pub Lunch following the 11:15 service has happened only occasionally this year. We are looking for a new coordinator who can rally the troops to reinstate this old tradition. Jim Steed and Jack Burton are the Winged Lion Pub Stewards, open for all kinds of libations at lunch and frequently provides service for parish events.

Continuing Programs and Activities

Answering Angel service continues to support the staff in the office suite. Created in 2003 by Linda Barnes and Marilyn Meek after the retirement of long-term parish secretaries, the "Angels" now number 23 volunteers who answer the phone, receive visitors, sign for deliveries, and other tasks as requested. Each serves a specific day and time and is backed up by several substitutes. *Contact: Bob Ewald*

The 20's and 30's group enjoys events focusing on service and fellowship. We had 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. The 20's and 30's have created a Holy Happy Hour after the 5pm service.

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

Third Agers create events for those aged 60 and above. Three meetings each year start with a pot-luck lunch and followed by a program. Bart Barnes, long time Washington *Post* obituary writer entertained us in April 2016 on “Being Dead is No Excuse: Life on the Obituary Beat.” Renowned author and our own Louis Bayard spoke in October about his latest book, Lucky Strikes. In his presentation, “The 14-year Old Girl in All of Us: A Middle-Ager Becomes a Young Adult,” he gave a special homage to his long-time editor, the late Marjorie Braman, to whom he dedicated his book. At our February 2017 meeting, Mike Canning, author of Hollywood on the Potomac, entertained more than 50 attendees with stories about movies made in Washington. Conveners: Susan Sedgewick, Don Gangloff 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. Though there is a group that takes primary responsibility for this work, all are encouraged to help. Many of you provide these services for your friends and neighbors without fanfare.

See page 28 or the list of lives celebrated in 2017

Contact: Linda Ewald (*retired as of 2017*)

Caregivers Support Group is for individuals caring for seriously ill or otherwise incapacitated loved ones, and 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. Our stalwart Mary Welker stepped down after six years as founder. Convener: Pamela Blumgart

Reading Group is for avid readers and meets on the first Monday of each month in the Library. Five or six folks come for a lively discussion of the chosen book then select the book for the next month. All are invited! Convener: Linda Ewald

Crab Feast is put on by the College of Crustaceans, a private and highly-select group of the crabbiest among us. This July found the 2015 Crab of the Year, Peter Sherer, bedecked in his crab crown, crabnet staff, and red & white robe, ready to pass them on. Crabs, chicken, corn, and watermelon were served to a raucous group of nearly 100 in Baxter Hall. As usual, the College of Crustaceans entertained us with their round of stellar nominations, and pronounced Manciple Jack Burton the Crab of the Year. The complete list of all Crabs hangs in Baxter Hall above the piano. No campaigning is permitted and any attempt excludes that person for life.

St. Mark’s Film Club was founded in May 2000, and we have been watching wonderful movies together for almost seventeen years. We enjoy classic, independent, and foreign films. With rare exceptions, we meet on the third Friday of every month in the home of Nancy and John Yanish. 2016 was an exception as we took a five-month hiatus due to the convener’s major surgery and recovery. She is doing fine now. Some of the movies we enjoyed this year include “The Way,” “Duck Soup,” “Arsenic and Old Lace,” and “Silver Streak.” Membership is open with six to ten people attending per month.

Convener: Alicia Ruble

Woman to Woman creates opportunities through special events for St. Mark’s women to meet, learn, laugh, share stories and strengthen bonds of friendship. Events this year included an inter-generational tea party, a discussion about the pelvic floor by Dr. Leslie Rickey, and a discussion, “A

Home in the World” on the role of women led by young women from the Middle East. This event was held in conjunction with the Middle East Working Group.

Convener: Edna Boone (openings for others interested in helping to organize/lead events).

Lambda Lions is our parish LGBTQ affinity group. This year the Lambdas assisted the Middle Timers in throwing the Saints and Sinners Dance. Convener: Rob Hall

Lichfield Link, our connection to the people of Lichfield Cathedral in England, is in its 28th year. The “link” was formalized in 1989 beginning with the friendship between Tony Barnard (Canon Theologian, ret.) and Jim Adams (10th Rector). There have been three visits by their choir, our choir’s 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. Homestays for St. Mark’s parishioners visiting the Midlands is encouraged! Link Rep: Doris Burton

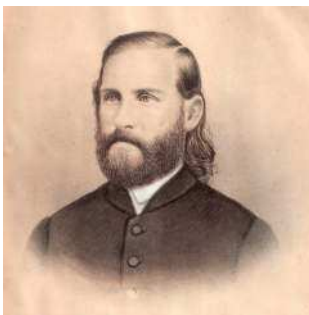
The Archives and Parish History Committee was established by the Vestry to organize, maintain, and manage the historic and financial records of the parish, provide lay leadership for development, implementation and monitoring of a records retention policy; educate the parish and the community about the history of the parish; and bring an historic perspective to others’ work where it will add value. This year, we prepared two displays: the first exhibited the various examples of winged lions, the symbol of St. Mark, including our windows, sign, and banner. Following inauguration weekend, we displayed signs and photos from the January 21 Women’s March including the thank-yous we received for our hospitality. Kenn worked with Finance Officer Patricia Schans to cull the years of financial records to meet with national church expectations.

- *Acquisitions:* We were fortunate to receive several historic documents about one of our stained glass windows from the great-grandson of the donor. These included original letters exchanged with Mayer of Munich and the original bill of sale pricing the window (Christ Walking on the Water) at \$300. We also re-discovered the original book containing the oath of office and signatures of wardens going back to 1890. We are now recovering the signatures of recent wardens to make the record current.

With the help of the archivist at the Diocese of Maryland (Baltimore), we received copies of correspondence between the widow of the Rev. Mark Olds, the founder of the mission church from which we grew, and the Bishop of Maryland, as well as copies of correspondence from our first rector, Rev. A. Floridus Steele.

- *Looking Ahead:* June 16, 2017 we will begin the sesquicentennial of the founding of St. Mark’s beginning with the establishment of the mission church in 1867 and extending through the acquisition of our current property in 1870.

Co-chairs: Kenn Allen and Mary Cooper; Members: Cecilia Monahan and Doris Burton



The Rev. Mark Olds, founder of St. Mark’s mission church in 1867 as Memorial Parish. After Rev. Olds death in 1868, the membership petitioned for the name change in his honor.

“Winged Lion Review A Journal of the St. Mark’s Community” completed its first full year of publication, putting out a total of seven issues during the parish year. In doing so, the co-editors sought to reflect this mission statement: “The Review is designed to be a forum where St. Mark’s members can step back from the hectic pace of parish life and to share ideas about our life together in a thoughtful, more personal way. Our vision for the Review, as developed along with senior parish leaders, is to offer a forum where people can state their views on major issues before the community, reflect on their own lives and display their creative talents.”

The *Review* featured more than 35 articles submitted by two dozen-plus parishioners, ranging from deeply felt personal reflections to enthusiastic reports on parish activities. Staff-generated articles included interviews with parish staff members and both long-time and new parishioner and transcripts of talks given at events such as the Third-Agers’ lunches. Stewart Andrews’ cartoon feature “Thirdinay” proved to be an ongoing source of humor and vigorous discussion.

Karen Falk, Hank Donnelly, editors

Women’s Investment Network has met monthly since 1995. We use the National Association of Investment Clubs methodology to learn about investing and global issues affecting our economy. In the last year, we have had fun studying stock market issues, corporate behavior, socially responsible investing, and made money on our investments despite a volatile year. St. Mark’s women who are interested in learning more about this study group should contact Susan Sedgewick or Nancy Donaldson, conveners.

