



2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the re-naming of our parish after its founder,
The Rev. Mark Olds, Rector, Christ Church + Capitol Hill.
Originally Memorial Parish, founded in 1867, the small congregation petitioned for the re-naming after the death of their beloved founder.



These reports are the work of the parish leaders, managers, and staff of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill
as credited in the booklet and cover the time period between Annual Meetings only.



St. Mark's + Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting & Report to the Parish February 1, 2018 — February 11, 2019

March 24, 2019

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish

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CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

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

WARDENS: Senior and Junior, for a term of two years

Senior Warden: Ryan Baugh Junior Warden: Jim Pittman
+

VESTRY: three seats, each for a term of three years

Kit Arrington, Kristi James, Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye
+

DIOCESAN DELEGATE: one seat, for a term of three years

Grace Aspinall, Caitlin Frazier
+

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Beth Mahood, Chair

Nora Howell, Senior Warden; Kenn Allen, Junior Warden; Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton Members of the Vestry
Karen Weidemann, Annie Rorem Members of the Parish
The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, The Rev. Scott Lipscomb, ex officio



LEGACY LIONS

The Legacy Lions were created in 2017 to honor those parishioners
who are remembering St. Mark’s in the wills/trusts.

The members as of February 6, 2019 include:

Scilla Adams	Tucker & Jack Harris	Rita & Matt Ossolinski
Kenn Allen & Maureen Shea	Nadine Hathaway	David Perry
Betsy Athey & Frank Lloyd*	Peter Hawley	Kathryn Powers
Bart Barnes	JoEllen Hayden & George Meng	Charlie Rupp & Louise Walsh
Eileen Blumenthal	Anne & Robert Headley	Marilu Sherer
Janice Brown*	Jan Hoffman	Linda Staheli & David Abramowitz
Jack* & Doris Muller- Burton	Nora Howell	James A. Steed
Mary Anderson Cooper	Linda Huntington	Joe Tarantola
David Stephanie Deutsch	Gale & Wayne Johnson	Arnold & Lil Taylor
Bob & Linda Ewald	Bill & Josie Jordan	Sherrill Taylor
Betty and Wes Foster	Keith Krueger	Susan Thompson
Raiford Gaffney	Pat Latin	Janet Vail
Rob Hall	Elizabeth Long	Mary Welker
Brock* & Penny Hansen	Beryl Maloney-Lillaston	Nat White
Rosemary Harold & Michael Knipe	Randall David Marks	David & Gretchen Willson
	Bertha Martin	
	Jim* & Marilyn Meek	*Deceased

To become a member of the Legacy Lions, please contact the Rector

ST. MARK'S COLUMBARIUM

In the
Chapel of the Nazarene
Established 2007



Niches available to parishioners and their families: \$1500
To select and purchase: Contact Penny Hansen
pennyhansn@aol.com

2019 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

11:30 am Lunch *provided by the Vestry*

12 noon Meeting

Call to Order	The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector, Presiding
Opening Prayer	Michele
Announcement of Quorum	Mary Cooper, Register
Approval of Minutes, 2018 Annual Meeting	
Vestry Election: Report of the Nominating Committee Call for Nominations from the floor Candidate Speeches, Question/Response Vote	Beth Mahood, Nominating Committee Chair
Diocesan Delegate Election Report of the Nominating Committee Call for Nominations from the floor Candidate Speeches, Question/Response Vote	Beth Mahood, Nominating Committee Chair
State of the Parish Addresses Overview Finance Fabric	Michele, Nora Howell, Senior Warden Martha Huizenga, Treasurer Kenn Allen, Junior Warden
Vestry Election: 2nd Ballot (if needed)	
Wardens Election Report of the Nominating Committee Call for Nominations from the floor Candidate Speeches, Question/Response Vote	Beth Mahood, Nominating Committee Chair
Acknowledgements: Outgoing Wardens/Vestry/Officers	Michele
Closing Prayer and Blessing	The Rev. Scott Lipscomb, Assistant Rector
Call for Adjournment	Michele

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 for purposes of an election and has the right to vote if, at some time, in the 12 months preceding an election, that person has made a financial contribution to the Parish AND

- (a) been recorded in the register of the Parish as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church **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.

East Vestibule Window, 1976



DID YOU KNOW:

St. Mark the Evangelist is believed to have been John Mark, cousin of St. Barnabas, and son of the Mary whose house was one of the meeting places in Jerusalem and probably a Levite or Cypriot. He is thought to be the young man who followed Jesus after his arrest and who ran away naked when he was caught, leaving his linen garment behind. Mark went with St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey but left them at Perga and returned to Jerusalem. He may have disapproved of Paul preaching to the Gentiles, others think he found the journey too dangerous. Instead, he sailed to Cyprus with St. Barnabas. It is a tradition that Mark acted as an interpreter for St. Peter in Rome and there, probably between AD 65-70, where he wrote the second Gospel, possibly with Peter's help. Mark later became bishop of Alexandria, later arrested for his faith, tortured by being dragged over stones, and executed. His relics are believed to have been taken to Venice in the 9th C and interred in the famous basilica. His symbol the lion, may be because of the belief that lion cubs are born dead, being brought to life three days later by their father's roar.¹

The winged lions in both our St. Mark windows (see the chancel clerestory) have red wings. Our Parish Historian, the late Bert Cooper, researched this and was unable to find any other winged lions with red wings, making ours quite unique!

¹ Dictionary of Saints, Geddes & Grosset, LTD., New Lanark Scotland, 1996.

Handbell Choir, led by volunteers Katherine Anderson and Sarah Headley, has continued bi-weekly rehearsals. The group aims to have fun while working on increasing its repertoire. Their intention is to play during more services in the future.

Instruments The 1959 Holtkamp organ remains in generally good working order. We made some minor modifications to the console in April to increase ease of use and had to replace the power supply over the summer, in addition to biannual tuning. 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. The hand-bells remain in satisfactory condition, with some receiving minor repairs in the fall. In August, the harpsichord at Christ Church + Capitol Hill came to us on permanent loan and is now located next to the organ, near the high altar and, thus far, has been used once on a Sunday morning and will be used for future services and concerts.

Other Music-related Events Parish Administrator James Rostron's management of space use contracts, etc. has allowed us to host more and more concerts, resulting in additional income to the church. Some of the ensembles hosted include the Chiarina Chamber Players, the Capitol Hill Chamber Music Festival, ArcoVoce, the Folger 21st Century Consort, Armonia Nova, the DC Concert Orchestra, and a high profile (and sold out) concert by Catalan early music conductor and viol player Jordi Savall, among several others.

'Hymns & Hoopla' and 'Carols & Cheer' hymn sings were held in September and December. The organization and recruitment efforts of the "Friends of Music" (which helps with receptions and other music-related events) also continues thanks, in large part, to Penny Farley.

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 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 be elected to 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.

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 an 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 s/he succeeds.

E. 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

Tucking in with the Gospel-- Kid-friendly translation of each week's gospel reading with questions to spur family reflection. This program empowers families to read and talk about the text each week before coming to church and is sent out every Friday to parents of young children.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC *Jeff Kempskie*

2018 proved to be another great year for our music program. Members of each ensemble continued to develop their skills and musicianship, learned new repertoire, and made friendships and deepened their relationships within the church community. We hosted numerous concerts throughout the year, supporting local musicians and artists, and bringing the outside community to St. Mark's while generating some revenue.

Sabbatical

Four months of a six-month sabbatical ran from early April through early August. St. Mark's hired Jason Kent West, part-time, to manage the music program, direct the Chancel Choir, and provide music on Sundays. I spent the first part of my sabbatical in DC, relaxing a bit, visiting with friends, and tying up various loose ends. In early May, I attended a two-week silent meditation retreat at the Insight Meditation Society's Forest Refuge, Barre, MA.

Shortly thereafter, I embarked on a trip to England, visiting several cathedrals, attending a variety of services, playing on several organs, and sight-seeing. Traveling to Germany, I got the opportunity to play on a large and rather special avant-garde organ in Kassel while sight-seeing. In Berlin, I continued exploring, attended three operas, and took a day trip to Leipzig to visit the Bach church and museum among other sights. Throughout the sabbatical, I searched for new choral and organ repertoire and focused on improving my pedal technique. I also planned much of the 2018-2019 music, undertook several organization projects, and read through, assessed, and categorized nearly all the music in our music library.

The remaining two months of my sabbatical will run from early June through the end of July.

I want to express my deep gratitude to St. Mark's for the opportunity to have a sabbatical!

Chancel Choir This group continues to grow and progress in a variety of ways. Participation in the group has remained steady and strong (about 50 members) with about the same number of people to singing at the 9:00 service and several more singers regularly singing at the 11:15 service. In addition to maintaining its once-per-month hang out after rehearsal, choir member Nick Rogers has begun organizing monthly social activities including several karaoke nights and a visit to a corn maze and pumpkin patch last fall. After four years of faithful service, Adam Caghey left the paid tenor section leader position. Following an interim period we hired a new tenor, Aaron Tucker, who started last fall. The choir continues to benefit tremendously from having a regular paid tenor to help lead the section, allowing the group to consistently sing good quality repertoire (usually four-part harmony) and maintain its high standards.

In addition to singing almost every Sunday morning (September thru early June), the choir sang the Mozart *Missa Brevis* with a string trio in March and an Evensong service in June. Soloists and the summer choir offered music over the summer months. Many members attended a half-day retreat (basically an extended rehearsal with lunch) in late August. Auditions for a chamber ensemble was held in the fall, with the group making a few appearances thus far. The full choir sang an Advent Lessons & Carols service in December and presented a concert including Saint-Saens' *Christmas Oratorio* and part I of Handel's *Messiah* in collaboration with local orchestra, DC Strings. Most recently the choir prepared and sang an Evensong service in February.

Boys & Girls Choir We were sad to see the departure of director Libbi Nixon, hired in the fall of 2015, as well as volunteer accompanist Conrad Chaffee and his twin boys in June. We hired a new director last fall: Marcelo Martinez. Marcelo has done excellent work with the currently seven-member choir, incorporating the teaching of *solfege* and other musical concepts into rehearsals. We've kept the same rehearsal schedule as last year, 90-minute biweekly rehearsals instead of the previous format of weekly 45-minute rehearsals. We also continued holding retreat in October including a variety of fun activities as well as rehearsing and preparing for the season. Besides singing about once a month, the Boys & Girls Choir participated in the Advent Lessons & Carols service, some members sang during the Christmas Pageant service, and four children recently sang as part of the Cathedral's annual Sacred Music Festival youth choir.

Fundraisers: Stock Sales to parish- \$4000.00
youth participants: 13 *youth participants 2016: 10*

Service Trips Celebration- On August 26, parishioners were invited for a lunch and presentation of service trip experiences by our Middle and High School youth. We watched a video for each trip and heard reflections from youth about their experiences. Over 60 parishioners attended.

Other Outreach Projects:

Sunday Suppers This year YFM took over the planning and service of Sunday Suppers on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Parents and youth donate casseroles, hard boiled eggs, and take the sandwiches made by Jack Richards’ team to Franklin Square to serve to our homeless neighbors. This outreach has grown from 5 volunteers in September to over 15 in January 2019.

Light the Night Walk to End Lymphoma and Leukemia Bake Sale and Walk To offer support to the family of Henry Burneson, youth and their families put together a bake sale to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society as well as participated in the walk at Freedom Plaza as part of Team Henry.
When: October, 2018 Money raised: \$800 youth participants: 10

CHGM Family Night (August) YFM coordinated with the Outreach Pillar to purchase backpacks and school supplies for the August Family Night for the children of shelter families.
When: August 5- Backpack stuffing August 13- Family Night youth participants: 15

CHGM Family Night (December) Middle and High School youth coordinated with the Outreach Pillar to purchase toys and books for two shelter families.
When: December 9- gift shopping/wrapping youth participants: 25

Family & Parish Life Events

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

Annual Family Ski Trip – A weekend trip for families in West Virginia Canaan Valley over President’s Day Weekend.
participants in 2019: 62*participants in 2018: 51*

Walking After Jesus—Now in its second year, this event lets children 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 31 children: 10 parishioner volunteers: 7

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

Parish Retreat—The theme for kid’s programming this year was Caring for Creation, and we put together a short play/performance of ‘We’ve Got the Whole World in Our Hands.’
When: June 17-18 youth/children: 10 *youth/children in 2017: 15*

Parish Picnic – Children’s carnival games, face painting, water balloon toss, etc.
When: September 9 Youth volunteers: 10 Children participants: 23

Family Fellowship Events- Post-Sunday School time of fellowship for all children/youth and their families, 3rd Sunday of every month:
April 22- Garden Clean-up
Oct. 21- Pumpkin decorating
Dec. 2- Advent Wreath activity
Dec. 23- Christmas Cookie Sunday
Jan. 6- Ice Skating

Communications

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

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 VIII 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.

These bylaws were adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting, April 3, 1964 and amended at the Annual Parish meetings of:

April 16, 1971, April 7, 1972, April 23, 1976, April 15, 1977, April 16, 1982, April 8, 1988
April 19, 2002 (election of Diocesan Delegates)
April 18, 2004 (extension of term for Treasurer)
April 19, 2009 (timing of Annual Meeting)
March 15, 2015 (definition of membership)
Last amended: March 26, 2017 (Wardens’ term)

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

DRAFT – for approval at the 2019 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Rector, The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, who offered the opening prayer.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: The tellers reported that a quorum was present.

2017 MINUTES: The Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were approved by voice vote.

VESTRY ELECTION: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Karen Weidemann presented the names of five candidates for terms on the Vestry: Katherine Anderson, Jane Byrne, Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, and Amber Macdonald. A motion to close the nominations was unanimously approved.

Each candidate was asked to address one question: Which challenge in our future do you most want to engage with and why?

The first ballot was cast and tellers retired to count the ballots.

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT: Senior Warden Nora Howell expressed her thanks to the Rector and to former Senior Warden Peter Sherer and Junior Warden Kenn Allen. She noted that the membership is growing and stressed the importance of providing food and hospitality after services as a way to help people engage.

She also thanked the Rector for her vision with regard to the Canvass, noting that \$878,000 was pledged, reaching 99.8% of the goal. Nearly 100 people are volunteers in some capacity in the parish, some in many roles.

THE RECTOR’S ADDRESS: The Rector acknowledged the work of the staff and introduced Patricia Schans, Caroline McReynolds-Adams, James Rostron, and Jeff Kempskie. She expressed appreciation for the staff of PMM, who keep the building clean.

The Rector expressed her thanks to the Wardens, the retiring Vestry members (Jennifer Holland, Karen Weidemann and Doug Jackson), Mary Anderson Cooper, Michael Knipe, and Martha Huizenga who have served as officers for the past year; Deacons Cindy Dopp and Steve Seely; and Seminarian Andrew Arakawa.

With regard to church growth and membership, she noted that we are good at welcoming people but need to work on what goes beyond saying “Hello”. She observed that the team doing pastoral care needs to be expanded.

She expressed appreciation for the fact that financial management has been greatly improved thanks to the work of Patricia Schans, Martha Huizenga, John Edwards, and Nora Howell. More importantly, the auditors are pleased with the current situation.

Search for an Assistant Rector: Michele reported that the Committee is screening candidates and has narrowed the field to four finalists with a decision anticipated by June. Short-term supply clergy are also being sought.

Chaperones: David Abramowitz
Youth Participants: 11 *youth 2017: 15*

Middle School Spring Lock In

When: April 21-22 Where: St. Mark’s
Theme/Activities: Pay Attention-- CHGM’s Homeless Assistance Response Team walk, life size game competition, murder in the Nave, hide and go seek, movie.
Chaperones: Jane Sherman, Charles Herman
youth participants: 11 *youth participants 2017: 9*

High School Fall Retreat:

When: September 30-October 1 Where: YMCA Camp Tockwogh, Thorton, MD
Theme/Activities: Letting Go/Holding On- climbing wall, archery, motor boat rides, canoeing, sunset hike, glow in the dark football, outdoor movie, campfire
Chaperones: Deanna Garner, Chris Herman
youth participants: 11 *youth participants 2017: 12*

Middle School Fall Lock In:

When: September 16-17 Where: St. Mark’s
Theme/Activities: Building a Community-- neighborhood scavenger hunt, video challenge, hide and go seek, murder in the nave, movie
Chaperones: Mary Thuell, Erika Lehman
youth participants: 13 *youth participants 2017: 17*

OUTREACH

Service Trips Our youth service trips program provides yearly, week-long service experiences for our Middle and High School youth. The goal of these trips is three fold: 1) we seek to use our resources to serve communities in need; 2) we seek to educate our youth to the diversity of need in local, rural, urban, and international communities; 3) we seek to build a strong sense of community within our teams. Each trip participant is required to attend a comprehensive training on our Christian call to service, how we serve responsibly, and ways our work away can extend to our lives back home.

Middle School The summer service trip is on a two year rotation: West Virginia with FLOC's Outdoor Education Center to learn about environmental stewardship and a week staying locally in D.C. to learn about outreach initiatives in our own neighborhood.

2018 Middle School Service Trip: Floc Outdoor Education Center

When: July 12-15 Where: Harpers Ferry, WV
Service Partner: For Love of Children’s Outdoor Education Center
Service Work: Environmental Justice/Creation Care + Team Building
Chaperones: Matt Dodge, Kris Humphrey
youth participants: 9 *youth participants 2017: 8*

High School

The High School summer service trip is on a three year rotation: a rural experience in Southern Appalachia with Appalachia Service Project, an urban experience in New York City with Youth Service Opportunities Project, and an international experience in Nicaragua with Fabretto Children's Foundation. These three unique experiences help broaden our worldview, expose us to lives that look radically different from our own, and inspire our youth to approach their place in the world with a passion for positive change rooted in empathy.

2018 High School Service Trip: Tennessee

When: June 17-June 23 Where: Scott County, TN
Service Partner: Appalachia Service Project
Service work: house repairs for underserved community
Chaperones: Stewart Andrews, Angie Cecil, Todd McClain, Ray Murray, Mike McClain,

- Make pastoral visits – to those in hospital and/or confined to their homes
- Meet with parishioners to discuss ministry efforts
- Assist with anti-gun violence events
- Led Lenten book study (Parker Palmer’s Let Your Life Speak)
- Began development of End of Life issues seminar

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES *Caroline McReynolds-Adams, Director*

The mission of the Youth and Family Ministries program at St. Mark’s is to be a welcoming and intentional space of spiritual formation for youth and their families through cohesive program offerings that emphasize outreach, art, worship, and education.

This year began with more growth and is coming to an end with more transition. Current Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Caroline McReynolds-Adams, had her last day in the position on February 26, 2019. Caleb Nelson Amaker, the Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministries, joined the staff on February 20, 2019 and will oversee the program through the program year and through an open search for the new Director.

2018/19 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

WORSHIP

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

Children’s Chapel: We offer Children’s Chapel liturgy under the rotating leadership Caroline McReynolds-Adams and various subs. Meeting every Sunday at 9am, this ‘kid-friendly’ service is designed for ages two through six and encourages participation, ritual, shared prayer, and singing. We average 18 children in chapel from week to week, which is up from our 2017/18 numbers.

We continued offering Children’s Chapel on the first Sunday of every month at the 5pm service where we average 5 children a month.

Christmas Pageant: This December we celebrated our traditional Christmas Pageant, with the help of our Parents-of-Mary, Sara Wilson and Phil Guire, and Parents-of-Joseph, Terri and David Trissell. This year’s baby Jesus was Rose Ramish, the daughter of Lisa and Dan Ramish
youth participants: 50 *youth participants in 2017: 52*

Christian Education/Sunday School

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

Summer Sunday school: While our traditional Sunday school classes were on a break, we offered a fun summer alternative for kids ages 3-10 from June 17 to August 26. This summer our theme is 'An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation.' We do some art each week, fun activities, and interactive bible stories all geared towards celebrating our earth. Our average attendance this summer was 13 kids. Summer Sunday school is organized by the DYFM and run by several volunteers.

Middle School & High School Events

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 28-29 Where: Blue Ridge Summit, MD (home of Ann Craig)

Theme/Activities: Roles We Play- Minute to Win It games, movie, games, cooking meals, play dough art

Efforts are still underway to integrate the three Sunday services more completely and to provide educational programs for children at 5 p.m.

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT: Kenn Allen reported that a Diocesan survey of 86 parishes in the Diocese showed that only 14 have planned giving programs. St. Mark’s created the Legacy Lions, those who have indicated that they have provided for the parish in their wills.

Kenn reported on evaluation of the building exterior and replacement of the HVAC system. Endowment funds were used to pay for the exterior evaluation per the Endowment charter. There are multiple dangerous problems with the tower and the north side of the building as well as the west side, and immediate repairs are needed. Experts from the Cathedral will be asked for a second evaluation. The parish will be seeking grants to assist with building preservation.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/EXTENDED VISION 2020: Rob Hall and Jackie Boddie reported a \$1.3 million mortgage, of which \$200,000 has been paid. We now need to pay off the mortgage, replace the HVAC in the nave and undercroft and install new sound equipment. The goal of the Extended Vision Campaign is \$1.5 million, of which \$657,000 has already been raised. They spoke of the human connections made at St. Mark’s and the importance of keeping the parish healthy for future generations. They announced that there is a \$100,000 pledge available to match gifts by first-time donors.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Martha Huizenga reported that the parish had a \$359,000 surplus in 2017, of which \$175,000 came from pledges paid in advance because of changes in the tax laws. The remainder was the result of increased fees for building rental, the early departure of the Associate Rector for a new job, Vision 2020 pledges that came in late, and unanticipated gifts.

VESTRY ELECTION RESULTS: The tellers reported that Christina Herman, Amber Macdonald, and Brandon Dunn Knight were elected to the Vestry on the first ballot.

DIOCESAN DELEGATE ELECTION: Peter Nye was the only candidate for the position of Diocesan Delegate. He was elected by voice vote.

APPRECIATION OF RETIRING VESTRY MEMBERS: Senior Warden Nora Howell expressed appreciation to retiring Vestry Members Jennifer Holland, Karen Weidemann, and Doug Jackson with the now-traditional engraved Jefferson cups.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register

VESTRY REPORTS

Senior Warden *Nora Howell*

I was blessed to become Senior Warden just two months before we welcomed Bishop Mariann Budde who installed our 12th Rector, the Rev. Michele H. Morgan. That day, we began our committed journey with Michele, listening as Bishop Mariann movingly spoke of our huge mutual blessings: we are blessed by Michele and she by us. At the same time, she reminded us that St. Mark’s isn’t done yet, and neither is Michele.

We are two years in to a relationship that, to me, feels strong and nourishing. From my perspective, we are mightily blessed by the care that Michele has shown to us in our times of need, her generosity of spirit, her strength of character when needed, her challenging sermons, her personal example of how to live and care for others, and her encouragement to us to get ourselves “outside ourselves” in so many ways.

On to the past year.....

We welcomed **The Rev. Scott Lipscomb** as our Assistant Rector – and what a difference he has made! He’s taken on a number of tasks Michele had been handling solo and has blessed us with challenging and engaging classes, compelling preaching, compassionate pastoral care – not to mention his adorable daughter Maggie!

Parishioner Complaints Under the professional and thoughtful leadership of Brandon Knight, we have established a procedure whereby parishioners can have their voices heard when they have significant complaints about the behavior of others. We have a tradition of bringing grievances directly to the party whose behavior is at issue, but it’s not easy for a newcomer to dive right into that kind of confrontation. Therefore, we established the Complaint Procedure.

Space use In Kenn’s fine report as Junior Warden, he provides information about the great use we made of our spaces over the past year. The bottom line for our 2018 budget was very good news: we planned for \$65,000, but actually took in over \$86,000, \$20,000+ more than expected. For 2019, we are planning \$95,000, driven by the 2018 actuals plus our forecast for additional income tied to District Montessori’s expansion. That’s a lot of numbers, so here’s the take away: we called the 2013-14 renovation “Vision 2020” and part of the vision was that more people would be making great use of our spaces – and they are!! It’s a comfort to know that we now take in enough each year in rentals to pay for the mortgage.

Administrative Streamlining:

Accounting: Over the last few years, we have made changes in our accounting structure in response to audit findings. We have closed many Designated Accounts, and our accountant regularly reminds us of how clean our books are: many thanks to Martha Huizenga, our retiring Treasurer, and Patricia Braley, our Finance Manager.

Volunteer Scheduling via Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP): Chris Berendes helped implement the transition of filling recurring volunteer position, thereby significantly lessening the scheduling burden on leaders.

Membership: As you will read in their report, from October, 2017 (start of the 2018 campaign) to October, 2018, when it ended, there were 48 new pledges entered. Some pledges are couples, so we actually welcomed 63 new members. For the current 2019 campaign, we’re a little behind that pace, but making great progress: from October 2018 to February 24, 2019, we have welcomed 19 new pledge units representing 27 new members. We’re less than halfway through the year, and have attracted a bit less than half as many new members as we did last year.

Huge thanks to all: who provide hospitality, serve as greeters and ushers, organize the events that bring in so many participants: the Mardi Gras party, Halloween dance, Parish Retreat, and annual ski week-end; those who lead and sing in the choir, organize and teach adult classes, teach Sunday School, organize and lead youth activities and trips, organize and support Sunday Suppers and sandwich-making, make name tags and remind us to wear them; to those who keep this beautiful building running smoothly and make it so welcoming. ALL are important as we open our doors and carry forward our message of inclusion and welcome and care. Clearly, our increasing membership numbers testify to positive results, so we all need to keep it up...especially in the area of hospitality. We need to offer refreshments after all the 10 and 5 pm services and a meal after the 11:15 when people are hungry for lunch. I’m so grateful that the Vestry said yes when they were asked to commit to provide hospitality once a quarter – that’s the challenge for ALL church groups: sign up to host a Sunday Lunch once a quarter.

Finances: Similar to last year, we ended 2018 with a surplus, this time of around \$90,000. We are being prudent and conservative in following the recommendations of our accountant and treasurers in setting aside some of the funds as reserves against future needs.

2018 Canvass: The Stewardship section in this Report has details, but I want to thank Michele for her gratitude vision which feels so appropriate to me, as there are so many things here that I am grateful for. I also thank Alix Pereira, Andrew Stafford, and the Vestry for their help in the execution of the vision. The results so far are good: as of February 24, 2019, we have \$831,000 pledged and therefore need only 7% more to achieve our goal of \$890,000. Reminder: if you haven’t pledged yet for 2019, please do so -- let’s get to 100%!!

A year ago, we started a **Extended Vision Capital Campaign** under the fine leadership of Jackie Boddie and Rob Hall, co-chairs. We originally set a goal of \$1.8M to: (1) cover some critical structural needs in the parts of the building that were not affected by the Vision 2020 renovations, (2) to pay down or pay off the \$1M mortgage we

Last fall, I helped lead the “Reclaiming Jesus” discussion group. We discussed passages of Scripture and asked how we might apply their lessons to our lives today and how we might “reclaim” Jesus’s public image in support of our values. We had more than twenty attendees, many who were deeply engaged. My hope is to follow this with a “Way of Love” discussion group to meet during Lent, to continue the conversation about how we can live our values and faith in our daily lives.

After receiving multiple requests for a class that explains some of the basics of the Episcopal Church, I held an “Episcopalians 101” class in two sessions during December. We had more than a dozen attendees, and have received requests to hold this class again this spring, and a version for 5pm service attendees. I am also engaged with the Spring 2019 Belongings class which began late January.

Membership Committee I joined the Membership Committee conference calls a few months after arriving. This committee helped organize the eight meet-and-greet dinners at parishioners’ homes. The leadership has since rotated from Peter Sherer to Amber MacDonald and Ryan Baugh with Peter’s enthusiastic endorsement of both. Amber and Ryan have some great ideas and are especially eager to help show St. Mark’s how we can continue to improve our engagement of young adults, so I will be working closely with them both in 2019.

Social Advocacy In addition to my concern for prison reform and support of incarcerated people, I have become ever-more concerned about the rights of migrants in our country. In November 2018, I was involved in planning a press conference and congressional visits to support the Episcopal Policy Network’s stance on funding for construction of a wall on our border with Mexico. December 4, I spoke at the press conference in opposition to such a wall and called for greater support and compassion for migrants; I joined others attending the offices of four members of Congress to press this same appeal to them. I plan to continue my involvement in this advocacy work in 2019, working closely not only with the Episcopal Policy Network but also other allied groups.

I am excited and thankful to be serving here and look forward to working with you all in the future!

DEACON *The Rev. Cindy Dopp*

My first full year in this role has been focused on the introduction and implementation of diaconal ministry at St. Mark’s. It has been a continuation of new experiences...for both the community and me. The deacon’s official role is primarily two-fold: to serve liturgically in worship services, and to serve as a ‘bridge to the world’, encouraging parishioners to reach out to respond to the needs of the outside world...both locally and beyond. The deacon’s role also includes an expectation to assist the Rector with other duties, as assigned.

Liturgical role:

As deacon, I am responsible for the following liturgical roles:

- Proclaim the Gospel
- Invite the Confession
- Set the table
- Pass the chalice
- Say the dismissal

I have also:

- Preached occasionally
- Helped organize the Maundy Thursday supper with lay leadership
- Distributed ashes on Ash Wednesday at Capitol Hill metro stop

Non-liturgical tasks:

- Attend weekly staff meeting
- Meet with the Rector and Assistant Rector weekly
- Attend Liturgical Planning Committee meetings
- Attend Outreach Committee monthly meetings, serving as temporary co-chair
- Serve as Partner Representative to Samaritan Ministries...attending quarterly meetings

- We need database of those wanting and needing care.
- We need a roster of those willing and able to provide care.
- We need to foster good communication between the laity and clergy.

Deacon Cindy Dopp has agreed to create a database of “care-needers” (this work will dovetail nicely with her Doctor of Ministry work), I have agreed to form a roster of care-givers, and we agreed that Cindy and I could be a first clergy point of contact, both for people seeking a clergy visit as well as for care-providers either wanting some assistance, asking for advice, or wanting to collaborate on care.

In addition, I have also endeavored to meet with not only newcomers but with long-standing members for coffee. I have committed to once-a-quarter meetings with the residents of Collington and Ingleside communities where many of our parishioners live.

Bulletins At one point this summer, our Bulletin Coordinator, Katherine Phillipson, had to take some time off so I stepped into the role of bulletin editor with substantial assistance from our Parish Administrator, James. We quickly noted that the software we were using (Microsoft Publisher) created major logistical problems for the staff: editing was taking far longer than it should. Furthermore, the bulletin could not be viewed or edited by anyone using an Apple product. I decided to move the bulletins to Google Docs. Although this took a few hours of initial work, the bulletin editing process is not only quicker but allows anyone on staff to view and edit the bulletin from any device (this is especially helpful for Michele, who uses a Mac laptop at home).

Ministry Scheduler Pro Last year, Michele requested that we begin using Ministry Scheduler Pro (“MSP”) to manage, store, and distribute the schedules for lay liturgical ministers. The goal was to both streamline the process of scheduling--and of finding substitutes once a schedule is made--and to centralize who was serving (which is greatly helpful both for the Bulletin Coordinator and for the vergers).

Christoph Berendes agreed to do much of the heavy lifting on this project and he and I began using MSP in August. We have added most of our Sunday ministries to MSP. This has already allowed us to generate unified schedules for both to Katherine for bulletin editing and to the vergers so that they know who they will be working with on any given Sunday. MSP can also greatly facilitate the process of finding substitutes in case of a scheduling conflict *and* help us to integrate new volunteers more easily.

Baptisms Another task that I took off of Michele’s plate was communicating with families seeking baptism for their children. In addition to the class offered twice a year, I have been meeting with families to talk about the theology of baptism, the St. Mark’s community, and answer questions they may have about the service. In this way, I have tried to function as a link between initial contact and participation in the Baptism class.

The Incarceration Justice Ministry At my interview last February, someone asked me what social justice issue I felt was most pressing in my new ministry. I answered I believed that the Episcopal Church had to take a stronger stance on the issue of mass incarceration in this country. Incarceration policy and work is totally new to me and yet, regardless, I feel God calling me to this work. To that end, last summer, I gathered some interested people to work on this issue.

We met in August, and agreed to begin with two modest but worthwhile goals: begin working with the Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IHAR) organization to write letters to DC residents imprisoned at federal facilities around the country and to begin reading books on the subject to better educate ourselves for future action. We have since received training from Rabbi Feinberg who runs IAHR, and many members have already received letters from their pen-pals. My hope is that this ministry can expand over time as St. Mark’s continues its history of engagement in social justice.

Christian Education Offerings Beginning October 2018, I started offering a monthly theology and ethics discussion group called “Wrestling with the Angel”. To date, we have discussed the meaning of “faith” and “hope” in Christian theology, the traditional theory of the Atonement and some alternatives to it. In January 2019, we discussed women in the Bible, how the Bible talks about women in general, and how our faith can be a tool for empowering women.

took out as a part of Vision 2020, and (3) make a significant contribution to a local cause that’s yet to be identified. These are all related: we need to maintain our historic building, get our mortgage down so that funds are freed to do more good in the world, and look outside ourselves to share our bounty with people less fortunate than we are. We set the goal and started asking for commitments. To date, \$1.4M has been committed for which we are very grateful. However, along the way last year, reality set in. After conducting a very careful survey of the exterior of the church and completing the first round of repointing, we found out that we needed to do about \$1.8M of work on the whole building (exterior restoration of the tower and north façade, HVAC, and the sound system). So, the Extended Vision target has been raised to \$2.2M, with a commitment to put 90% of the funds raised above \$1.8M towards the mortgage (balloon payment due February 2022) and 10% towards the community gift. We are grateful to those who have pledged already – but, if you haven’t, the annual meeting is a great opportunity to do so. There are pledge forms in the tract racks. The earlier you honor your pledge, the better for us since we expect to have to take out a short term loan this year in the range of \$500k to pay for this year’s restoration efforts.

As I end my time as your Senior Warden – a most challenging, gratifying, demanding, and meaningful position—I have a few final thoughts.

We will have challenges ahead:

- Figure out how to rustle up the cash to pay for the tower restoration this year
- Find a replacement for the irreplaceable Caroline McReynolds-Adams
- Finish the 2019 Canvass, and reach our stretch goal for Extended Vision.
- Focus on expanding membership.

But here’s the thing: we’re going to do it! I remember a sermon many years ago that Jim Adams preached about the operating budget and the need to pledge to the Canvass. He told the story of when he and his wife were talking about getting a new car. Ginny said they needed one and he explained in great detail (probably with a 1980’s hand-written spreadsheet) the very many reasons why they simply couldn’t afford it. As he relayed the story, he paused for a moment and then he said, of course, they bought the car and figured out how to pay for it. That’s what we’ve always done and it’s what we will continue doing: whatever the challenges ahead, we’ll figure out how to get through it – together.

Finally, on that “together” note, I am personally very grateful to having had the opportunity to work with such a **strong lay team** supporting our Rector and each other. Our Vestry have shown their devotion by greeting and ushering, providing hospitality and liaising with parish pillars. All the while, they see themselves as your representatives and I am so grateful for their insights and energy. Thanks to current (and retiring) Vestry Members Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Beth Mahood, Jim Brooks, Tracy Councill, Alix Pereira, Christina Herman, Brandon Knight, and Amber Macdonald. I also thank our officers: retiring Register Mary Cooper, retiring Treasurer Martha Huizenga, Assistant Treasurer (soon to be Treasurer) John Edwards, former Manciple and Legal Counsel Michael Knipe, current Legal Counsel Rosemary Harold, and current Manciple Jim Pittman; and, finally, for my very experienced, effective, and extraordinary partner, Kenn Allen. He held this job before, and, as I have often said to Michele, her lay leadership team is much stronger because of everything Kenn brings to it.

I’ve named and thanked 20 people. In addition, there are at least 74 other parishioners who volunteer as group leaders (Outreach, Christian Ed, Worship, Parish Life, Membership, Communications), Altar Guild, vergers, counters, Sunday school teachers -- I could go on but will stop there. Anyone who wonders about the vibrancy and energy of this parish or the love we bring to it should just consider that there are about 100 members today who have said “yes” when asked to help in some way. It’s an amazing place, and I thank each and every one of you for all you do.



Woodblock print by the late David Evelyn

JUNIOR WARDEN *Kenn Allen*

The Junior Warden is responsible for use and upkeep of our physical plant. As is tradition, it also meant being a member of the “executive committee” with the Rector and Senior Warden. The Junior Warden works collaboratively with and is supported by a wide cast of people. Tremendous thanks go to those in formal support roles without whom the past year would have been infinitely more challenging:

The Fabric Committee – Michael Bloomfield, Pete Eveleth, Don Gangloff, Fritz Henn, Christina Herman, Michael Knipe, Michele Morgan, Kathryn Powers, Jack Richards, Charlie Rupp, Andy Wenchel, Jim Pittman

Michael Knipe, Manciple through August 2018; Jim Pittman, Manciple since January 1, 2019

Kathryn Powers, Gardener-in-Chief

James Rostron, our superb Parish Administrator who manages use of our space, oversees our contract with PMM to provide our janitorial crew and engages regularly with Monarc Construction who handles our repairs and maintenance

The Rector and the Senior Warden

and to all who have been willing to pitch in as needed to assume leadership and operational responsibilities as required – and a special thank you and hug for my spouse, Maureen, who has put up with it all, has become a proud carrier of “the keys” to fill in when I am away and regularly works to keep the kitchen clean and the contents of the refrigerators under control.

On a personal note, I want to thank the parish for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role. It has been challenging, energizing, frustrating, maddening, overwhelming, great good fun, exciting and very, very satisfying. Thanks to all of you for your support, your patience and your “St. Mark-edness.”

Major Work Over the Past Year

The Cherry Tree Panels. Recognizing the need to make permanent an appropriate coating to make them fully visible, we sought proposals from two design firms. Copeland Design, responded with a proposal to place opaque white display panel film on the rear of the panels. That work was completed at the very end of January, bringing out the vibrant colors in the Tracy Councill photo of our cherry trees. The work was made possible through a lead contribution from Doris Burton complemented by contributions from members of the clergy, the Vestry and the Fabric Committee, all in memory of Jack Burton, who served St Mark’s in many roles over the years, including as Junior Warden (’03-’05) and who passed away shortly before the work began.

Exterior Repairs. The “chimney phase” of our exterior restoration was completed successfully. This included a complete rebuild of the chimney located on the northeast corner of the church including replacement of four chimney stones and one parapet stone and replacement of the flashing; repair to and repointing of the arch over the sidewalk; cleaning and repointing of 100% of the bricks on the east end of the north façade; resetting and caulking the steps to the A Street door; rewiring for the lights attached to the arch to place the wires inside the arch; repair and restoration of the sconce (lamp) on the north side of the arch and rewiring for the light on the south side of the arch.

In addition, we approved the “tower phase” of the overall restoration and signed a contract with Aeon Preservation Services and FMR Masonry for that work. Including a contingency line item, the total value of the contract is \$1,380,000.00. Work is scheduled to begin in March 2019 with construction of scaffolding that will cover a major portion of the north façade and totally encircle the tower. The first step in that process was a four-day visit in January by the quarry furnishing the new stone required to complete the needed repairs. Using a high lift, they and members of the Aeon team obtained exact measurements thus enabling the quarry to precisely fabricate the stones and to reduce the need for on-site adjustments.

Replacement of the HVAC system for the nave and undercroft¹. Over the past year, we completed a formal assessment and testing by GPI Engineering, supported by Shapiro and Duncan Mechanical Contractors, to enable GPI to develop detailed specifications for a new HVAC system to serve the old undercroft and the Nave. Based on those specifications, Monarc Construction sought bids from three potential contractors. After review of the proposals, the Fabric Committee recommended that we contract with Comfort Solutions to install a Trane system of

20’s & 30’s I understand that in years past, St. Mark’s had a flourishing 20’s and 30’s monthly meeting called “Chewing on Faith,” but when the lay leader moved away, meetings were less regular. Re-starting a structured time for younger people to meet was a top priority of mine. Fortunately, a young person stepped up to this task. In late July, Emily McDuff began what a “Faith Fellowship” for members and guests in their 20’s and 30’s. Emily is a recent college graduate and really motivated to lead this group. In the first two meetings, there were 15, then 17 attendees. Those attending seemed interested and engaged. The meetings are held after the 5pm service the last Sunday of each month. I plan to attend each meeting, and I help advertise the meetings, and consult with Emily on the content as she requests.

A number of younger folks have requested further opportunities to meet, socialize, and build community. Michele and I are discussing ways to help launch small groups, some of which will be focused on welcoming and engaging younger adults. One way we have already engaged some young adults outside of the Faith Fellowship was their offering to serve Sunday Supper on December 30, 2018. We had a great turnout of volunteers, and this offering seemed to strengthen the sense of community already developing among the Faith Fellowship attendees.

REALM Finance Manager, Patricia Braley, has been using Realm for many months to store and manage much of our data. I have been using Realm to keep track of newcomers, find information for pastoral contacts, keep track of various groups and ministries, and other “administrative” duties. We recently organized the data sufficiently to produce an updated directory which Patricia distributed this summer.

The next big task will be rolling out invitations to members to create a login and profile for Realm. The main utility this will bring to parishioners is a constantly updated, easily searchable directory. Incoming Membership Committee co-chairs, Ryan Baugh and Amber McDonald, are excited to support this rollout.

Worship Committee As of August 2018, I am serving as co-chair of the Worship Committee with James Steed. One of our primary goals was to re-vamp and clarify the distinct jobs the committee has. On one hand, the committee is meant to manage the community process of forming liturgies. It is also responsible for handling detailed decision-making for each of the specific ministries associated with the liturgy (e.g. the Altar Guild, Vergers, ushers, etc.). The former task is concerned with “big-picture” questions about theology, community, etc. The latter task is a “nuts and bolts” one with more focused questions. Each is important and vital, but it is not necessarily expedient or effective to try and manage both tasks in the same meetings.

For the reason, we are experimenting with a new structure: monthly meetings will handle the “nuts and bolts” decision-making, while liturgy planning is now happening in “Community Liturgy Planning” sessions held on Sunday afternoons. We planned Advent 2018 and Epiphany 2019 in these sessions; our next planning session began in late January/early February to discuss our Lenten liturgy.

Additional Tasks In addition to these areas, I have taken on some responsibility for other areas of our communal life: pastoral care, transitioning the software used for bulletin creation, initiating the use of Ministry Scheduler Pro, meeting with parents seeking to baptize their children, beginning work on an incarceration outreach group, planning new Christian education offerings, joining the Membership Committee, and engaging in social advocacy.

Pastoral Care One of the realities that became abundantly clear in my first few weeks at St. Mark’s was that Michele had been overworked for a considerable period of time. I began to look for specific tasks and ministries that I could “take off of her plate”, both to help her focus on those tasks that were most critical and to ensure that we were serving the needs of our members and guests as best as possible.

One task that I decided to help take on was pastoral care: information about people needing or wanting a visit from clergy was not always getting to us in a timely fashion and that, often, Michele did not have the time to make every visit that might be requested. Fortunately, a range of lay people have taken up the work of providing pastoral care, attention, and assistance for many years. I decided to meet with these lay ministers to help organize, plan, and foster communication about pastoral care at St. Mark’s.

A number of lay ministers (Peter Hawley, Josie Jordan, Margie Ware, Linda Meade, Linda Ewald, Jane Miller, Nora Howell) met with me and Cindy in August to plan and organize pastoral care at St. Mark’s. Three big conclusions came out of this meeting:

Clergy

**The Reverend Scott Lipscomb*, our Assistant Rector, has stepped in and taken over a lot of jobs that were getting short shrift (please look at his report). More and more, I see him as someone to whom I can turn over the care of the church as I attempt to step away, take my time off, and do more and more self-care.

**The Reverend Cindy Dopp*, our Deacon, continues to step into her role that is new to St. Mark’. Our community needs to continue learning what a Deacon does and see her as clergy. It is an ongoing process as we learn about all of the Holy Orders

**Seminarian Joe Hubbard* will be a ‘middler’ (2nd year seminarian), arriving this Fall, learning what it is to be a priest. Originally from Alabama, Joe will go on to serve indigenous communities in the Diocese of North Dakota. I am so pleased to have him with us this coming year. St. Mark’s has a unique way of moving through the Episcopal world as we send seminarians out and I hope Joe be one more who will carry us with him as he moves out into the greater church.

Extended Vision

The reason I carry the title of Rector is this: I am the “priest in charge of a self-supporting parish, the ecclesiastical authority of the parish. The term is derived from the Latin for ‘rule: the rector has authority and responsibility for worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the parish, subject to the rubrics of the BCP, the constitution and canons of the church, and the pastoral direction of the bishop. The rector is responsible for selection of all assistant clergy, and they serve at the discretion of the rector. *The church and parish buildings and furnishings are under the rector’s control.*

“The rector or a member of the vestry designated by the rector presides at all vestry meetings” (definition from the Episcopal church website). I am as responsible for the care of the building as much as for the people of its parish. We clergy put ourselves out there to assure that the building is cared for, well into the future. **If you have not had a chance to make a pledge to the extended vision campaign I strongly urge you to do so today.** The work on the bricks outside, the heat and cooling inside, and the new sound system are all the things what will allow St. Mark’s to continue supporting and being a part of the Capitol Hill, and DC metro community. (Yes Maryland and Virginia too!)

I look forward to our work in 2019 and am so grateful that this work is *our* work.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR *Rev. Scott Lipscomb*

April 9, 2018 to January 8, 2019

When I began working at St. Mark’s, Michele had a number of specific tasks and goals for me. As time went by, I noted some issues I thought needed attention and added them to my list of responsibilities, in consultation with Michele.

The areas given me initially were: contacting and inviting newcomers, engaging 20’s and 30’s members and visitors, expanding the use of Realm, and helping lead the Worship Committee. (I have omitted an extended discussion of my role leading liturgy and preaching, to not have this report any longer than necessary. I hope my work in both departments is public enough to speak for itself.)

Newcomers My approach with newcomers has been very direct: I try to speak to any new person I see in each service, introducing myself and inviting them for hospitality and further engagement. Second, I respond to each “guest sheet” (the back of the bulletin that can be filled out, torn off, and turned in), with an email or, occasionally, with a phone call. I always offer to meet in person, and, to date, I have met with more than three dozen newcomers for coffee or here at the office. We frequently receive 1-3 guest cards per Sunday, and I estimate more than 50% of those I contact respond and want to meet or get more information by email. And, many who do not respond or do not want to meet one-on-one with me end up engaged here. My sense is that contacting them communicates an important sense of attention and interest to them as newcomers—it says “we see you and we want to know you!”

compressors and air handlers. With Vestry approval, we entered into a contract with Monarc to deliver the system through Comfort Solutions at a total price of \$190,000. We are awaiting delivery of the equipment from Trane so that the new system can be installed, hopefully by the end of March 2019.

Replacement of the sound system in the nave. With the leadership of Charlie Rupp, the Fabric Committee issued an RFP in March 2018 seeking a sound engineer to assess our needs and to develop specifications for a new sound system for the nave. Despite extensive efforts, we received only one response, from CTSI, a firm that provides a broad range of “audiovisual, videoconferencing, professional sound systems, security, voice and networking, healthcare, and education technologies.” They submitted a “design-build” proposal for a completely new sound system. After meeting with them, reviewing their proposal, participating in a detailed site visit by them attended by several members of the committee, and negotiating a final price, the Fabric Committee recommended that we accept their revised proposal to install a new system at a cost of \$75,159. With Vestry approval, we entered into a contract with them. Installation is now scheduled for mid-March.

Ongoing maintenance. We continue our contract with Monarc Construction to oversee the maintenance and repairs of the building. This includes scheduling, managing and interpreting the results of regular inspections of everything from fire extinguishers to the HVAC system, the boilers, the fire alarm and the elevator. In addition to routine maintenance, we had five significant improvements and repairs over the past year: repair to foyer floor where the “hump” between portions of the building was loosening the flooring and creating a tripping hazard; installation of a bi-fold door between rooms 4 and 6 in the Sunday school (Turner) wing of the undercroft to provide more flexibility in how Sunday School rooms are allocated to different grade levels; new smoke detectors in the Sunday school wing; installation of a new boiler expansion tank and a new backflow preventer on the boiler as both were left over from the old boiler system and had reached the end of their useful lives.

We also continue our contract with PMM for janitorial services. Darak Tabron continues to be a mainstay throughout the week and, as needed, on weekends. He also supervises most of the after-hours resets of the nave and has become a valued and responsive member of our overall team.

Hospitality for Us and Others We continued to make extensive use of all of our space, the renovated Baxter Hall wing, the nave and Sunday school wing. Here are some interesting statistics:

- In 2018, we host 123 weddings, 8 funerals and 10 private social events (lunches, dinners and birthday parties).
- External groups brought us 50 Girl Scout meetings and 80 other children-focused activities, 250 AA meetings, 25 social justice gatherings, 40 rehearsals by the Folger Theater and 19 performances by musical groups. We now have in residence District Montessori School for 12 children, ages 3-4, 5 days a week from September to June. Starting in September, they will expand to include a second class, ages 2-5.
- We had 300 Yoga Studio classes, 1200 Dance Studio classes, and numerous Music Studio lessons and recitals. The St Mark’s Players held three productions, a total of 27 performances and extensive use of Baxter Hall and the nave for rehearsals.
- And, of course, we had our 200+ Sunday and Thursday services, Sunday school and adult classes, choir practice, and interminable meetings.

We have sustained our hospitality to one another through the 10:45 AM Sunday coffee hour, Sunday lunch and the post-5:00 PM service reception. While we have not had 100% coverage for all three activities, we are running at about 75% thanks to the willingness of individuals, couples, families, ad hoc groups and formal parish program groups to step up, sign up and serve up. Through the corps of baristas and clean-uppers (the “Grounds Crew”), organized and managed by Doris Burton, we manage to provide coffee virtually every Sunday morning.

The Garden *Kathryn Powers, Head Gardener* The gardens continue to be maintained by volunteers. Plantings on 3rd Street are maturing. The north section is unfinished until the anticipated scaffolding is removed. In the courtyard, the quince tree was dying and the expense of professionally removing it as well as pruning the oak and the plums was covered by a bequest. Capitol Hill Montessori will replace the quince with a raised bed for the children to plant.

Columbaria According to “The Organization St. Mark’s Church”, a document laying out details for our operation, and by tradition, the Junior Warden is responsible for the columbaria at the high altar and in the Chapel of the Nazarene. In reality, the management of those spaces falls to the Rector (due to the nature of the space) and two volunteers coordinators – Doris, for the high altar and Penny, for the chapel. It is their leadership – quiet, essential, responsible, responsive – that enable us to have this wonderful resource.

STAFF REPORTS

RECTOR Rev. Michele H. Morgan

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, to come and participate in the governance of the Church. I am in the process of completing my fourth year at St. Marks and I continue to be excited by the possibilities we have to be of service in the world, continuing to invite people in and to bring more light, more life, more God into the world. I continue to be amazed at the willingness of this place to welcome the stranger and to live into the work that we have been called to do, The lay volunteers with whom I work on a daily basis still inspire me to be present and to continue the work. Our Senior Warden, Nora Howell, and Junior Warden, Kenn Allen, have finished a productive and amazing two years and I am thankful I have had the opportunity to serve with them and to get to know them as well as I have. They have been a gift to me.

Staff

I am blessed with an amazing group of people who work to make St. Mark’s hum along. Jeff, Scott, Cindy, Caleb, and I are the ones here Sunday mornings so we tend to be the face of the staff but we look good because of the support of Patricia, James, and Katherine.

- *Patricia Braley*, Finance Manager, keeps our finances clear, concise, and on point so we know how much money comes in and goes out of the parish accounts; when all is said and done, Patricia knows where everything is and strives to make sure she is not the only one who knows it. It is a gift to have someone as persistent and clear as Patricia who is willing to go the extra step for parishioners and clergy alike. This year, Patricia’s work included moving us to using a new church management system, Realm. It has been a lot of work for everyone but we believe it will be worth it for staff and parishioners alike.
- *James Rostron*, Parish Administrator, and came with an easy-going manner and a clear way of setting up systems. James has a way of making things work and tracking massive amounts of information. It is a gift that he has and a light touch as he works with the groups and people who use our space as well as with parishioners looking for an answer to their questions. He has streamlined the space use process and is testing whether working Tuesday thru Saturday to help with outside groups using the building addresses their needs and protects our property. James is also working with PMM this year to improve coordination of the setting/re-setting of our rooms.
- *Katherine Parr Philipson*, Bulletin Coordinator, has the impressive ability to notice and make adjustments on the massive amount of written material.
- *Jeff Kempskie*, Director of Music, is the longtime glue holding St. Mark’s together: Jeff cares deeply about the worship experience, has the desire to have the choir sing accessible and challenging music and, most of all, is a teacher who steps in to create beauty in worship Sunday after Sunday. Jeff has an eye for detail that makes him a great asset to not only worship but to the building in general. I am so happy I get to collaborate with him and I am always amazed at the quality of the music that we get to hear on Sunday mornings.
- *Caleb Nelson Amaker*, Interim Youth and Family Minister, is brand new to the work at St Mark’s but has been attending and volunteering with the youth for the last several years. He has been working with teenagers in a camp setting for quite a while and is deeply committed to making a journey with your children as they continue to make meaning within this faith community. He is striving to help the children and teens of this parish grow up being connected, compassionate adults with a faith story they understand enough to lean on and draw from. I look forward to working with him.
- *Cleaning Contractor/PMM*: We continued to work with our day porter, Darak Tabron, who has great ability to get rooms set up as James and I continue to work on the day-to-day cleaning roles. We are still seeking some stability with our weekend porter and with supervising quarterly cleaning.

Nave Columbarium, *Doris Burton, Coordinator*, constructed in the 1970s, consists of 75 fully sub scribed niches. The plaques are now fabricated by Matthews International, a foundry in Pittsburgh, PA.. Because our unit was not made by them and because our reps have changed four times in the past year, we have had numerous problems getting new plaques made correctly. We will continue to work with them as eliminating the ‘middle man’ has significantly reduced the cost of plaques. If your niche requires a new plaque, please contact the coordinator at dmburton21@gmail.com.

Chapel Columbarium, *Penny Hansen, Coordinator*, is now an integral part of the Chapel of the Nazarene, originally consecrated in 1931 and, after reconstruction and refurbishment, re-consecrated in 2010 (for a complete history of the columbaria, see [Annual Report 2016](#).) It contains 196 niches of which 92 are currently available at a cost of \$1500. Purchase rights are reserved for parishioners and their families and are operated under a standard agreement approved by the 2014 Vestry. Plates are engraved by Signcraft of Annapolis using a standard layout. To purchase a niche, please contact the coordinator at pennyhansn@aol.com.

¹Undercroft is, specifically, the area under the church, i.e. nave

TREASURER’S REPORT Martha Huizenga

We are pleased to report that 2018, again, was a very good year financially for St. Mark’s, pushing us further towards a solid base for future growth.

In 2018, we had an unexpected excess of revenue over expenses of \$90,699. This was caused by:

- ◇ Excess pledges for 2018 paid as well as pre-payment of 2019 pledges
- ◇ Special offerings were significantly higher than in previous years
- ◇ Use of Buildings income was higher than expected

Similar to what we did when there was a surplus in 2017, including significant pre-payment of 2018 pledges, we are investing the surplus of \$90,699 by transferring \$42,320 internally to the 2019 budget, and adding the rest to Parish Reserves. This transfer allows us to fund parish activities at the amounts requested.

The 2019 budget is a balanced budget, which includes:

- ◇ Full funding for all requests from parish managers and staff
- ◇ Continued annual funding for the Building Replacement Reserve and the Sabbatical Reserve that we determined would be annual in 2018.



Bill Rau, Sara Rau, Bruce Ritter, Steve Schindel, and James Trainor (husband of Rosalie Ryan). Susan Flanders discussed her new book, If I Ever Lose My Mind: Aid in Dying with Advanced Dementia with 50-60 people, some from outside the 3rd Agers.

Woman to Woman *Edna Boone, Convener* Woman to Woman continues providing opportunities to learn, laugh, grow and strengthen the bonds of friendship. In February, the group met for a potluck dinner and book signing with Loretta Woodward Veney, author of Being My Mom’s Mom and Refreshment for the Caregiver’s Spirit. In June, women were invited to share their “Me, Too” stories from which the Parliament of Owls was born. Formed by Elin Whitney-Smith and others to bring attention to the issue of sexual harassment and assault, this group created more than 1400 origami owls displayed all over the building during Epiphany. The display brought responses from the community and other outside groups. The final event of the church year was a potluck on February 26 with Rev. Catalan leading a discussion on ‘the other’.

Women’s Investment Network *Penny Farley, Nancy Donaldson, leaders,* Learning by doing, WIN successfully navigated the turbulent business climate over the last year by using the National Association of Investment Clubs methodology for studying stocks and focusing on how corporate behavior responds to growing environmental, trade and other challenges affecting the market place.

The Winged Lion Review: A Journal of the St. Mark’s Community *Karen Falk, Hank Donnelly, co-editors,* completed its third full year of publication, putting out five issues. The co-editors sought to reflect this mission statement: “The Review is designed to be a forum where 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 focused on articles by parishioners about important activities and events, such as reports on the most recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land and a meditation on centering prayer by Adjunct Clergy, Rev. Patricia Catalan.

Budget Report			
<i>Income</i>	<i>2018 Budgeted</i>	<i>2018 Actual</i>	<i>2019 Budgeted</i>
Pledges	\$675,820	\$738,198	\$885,450
Other Income	\$179,600	\$177,459	\$158,200
Internal Transfers	\$181,752	\$192,796	\$42,320
Parish Organizations	\$9,200	\$9,285	\$9,200
Extended Vision2020	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	\$1,046,372	\$1,117,738	\$1,095,170

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>2018 Budgeted</i>	<i>2018 Actual</i>	<i>2019 Budget</i>
Payroll & Related	\$511,013	\$531,326	\$595,435
Parochial Ministry	\$75,545	\$44,521	\$37,750
Diocesan Pledge	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Outreach/VT Seminary	\$36,852	\$24,852	\$31,800
Administration	\$53,675	\$52,842	\$56,275
Property	\$291,260	\$319,156	\$308,910
Total	\$1,023,345	\$1,027,697	\$1,085,170
Sabbatical/ Building Replacement Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$13,027	\$80,041	-

Communications Working Group *Thia Hamilton, Martha Huizenga, Co-chairs*
Christopher Berendes, Pamela Blumgart, Karen Falk, Caitlin Frazier. Members

Website: The primary work of this group involves the care and maintenance of the church website, www.stmarks.net. On a weekly basis, a rotation of committee members takes responsibility for adding and updating events and announcements on the website, as communicated in the weekly service bulletins and the e-Gospel.

The CWG is on-call for assistance in adding or changing website information, as events arise, or leadership changes, etc.

2018 marked two years since the church’s website had been completely rebuilt (2015-2016). While the overwhelming feedback about the new website has been positive, it was determined in 2018 that some additional changes to the navigation and organization of content would make the site easier for members to use. It is worth noting that a majority of newcomers and visitors, when asked how they happened to find St. Mark’s, respond that they found it online and were very drawn to visit, after looking through the website.

In July, the group convened to begin a planning process. By September-October the new site map was finalized and outreach to pillars and other committee/group leaders began in earnest, with a goal of getting updated content collected before Thanksgiving for a year-end re-launch of the site. The web developers, openbox9, were contracted to assist.

MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY MARCH 2018-FEBRUARY 2019 Key: RA: Rector’s Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action is listed by month-year (03-17=March 2017)	
VA 03-18	Elected Officers of the Vestry to serve until the 2019 APM: Register, Mary Anderson Cooper; Counsel, Michael Knipe; Manciple, Michael Knipe; Treasurer, Martha Huizenga; Assistant Treasurer, John Edwards.
VA 04-18	Approved fund-raising request for youth service trip 2018.
RA 04-18	Employed Scott Lipscomb as Assistant Rector.
VA 04-18	Approved housing allowance for new Assistant Rector Scott Lipscomb.
VA 05-18	Approved expenditure of \$125,000 for repairs to chimney and NE corner of the church building.
VA 06-18	Approved annual audit.
VA 06-18	Approved using surplus as follows: \$75,000 for building restoration, \$25,000 for Building Reserve, and \$21, 502 for Parish Reserve.
VA 06-18	Approved revision of Players Charter to reduce St. Mark’s Board requirement from five to three members.
VA 09-18	Approved receipt of Janice Brown bequest of \$4,000 for maintenance of courtyard and garden.
VA 09-18	Approved resolution on Gun Violence Prevention.
VA 11-18	Approved proposal to sell paper poppies to commemorate Armistice, proceeds to go to veterans groups; proposal by Team Henry to raise funds for lymphoma/leukemia research; proposal to raise funds for Gifts for Good.
VA 11-18	Approved funds to upgrade sound system in the nave.
VA 11-18	Approved Formal Parishioner Complaint Procedure.
VA 12 -18	Approved Phase II proposal for repairs to the tower.
VA 12-18	Approved replacement of the HVAC system.
VA 12-18	Approved acceptance of gift to repair the cherry tree panels in Baxter Hall.
VA 01-19	Approved conducting of a survey of people of who participated in the Catechesis program as children.

ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE OF REGISTERED VOTERS		
Meeting	Registered Voters	Vestry Register
March 10, 2012	186	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 13, 2013	166	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 30, 2014	155	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 15, 2015	215	Blair Ford
March 13, 2016	179	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 26, 2017	190	Mary Anderson Cooper
February 25, 2018	No record made	

Caregivers and Caregivers Support *Rev. Scott Lipscomb, Deacon Cindy Dopp* These two groups – 1) those desiring to provide help to parishioners in need and 2) those already providing care and in need of their own support – are being reformed by the leaders. Please also see Deacon Cindy’s report in the Staff section.

College of Crustaceans *Jim Steed, Doris Burton, Conveners* This select group chooses members noted for their crabbiness aimed at helping us do our best. They held the annual Crab Feast on Sunday, August 12 and crowned Tracy Council as their newest member.

Dozier Library *Peter Hawley, Librarian* In the past year, the Dozier Library Committee has improved the collection with items contributed by Bill Dickinson, Neal Gregory, Penny Hansen, Nora Howell, Michael Knipe, Sis McKay, Kathryn Powers, Rick Warfield, and several anonymous donors. We participated in the Parish Fair, displaying recent additions to the collection and demonstrating how to use the online catalog.

Film Club *Alicia Ruble, Convener* The St. Mark's Film Club meets most months at the home of Nancy and John Yanish or at a local theatre to enjoy a movie and discussion. Members contribute snacks and drinks, and sometimes bring the movie.

Holy Grounds *Doris Burton, Coordinator* Most of the 7 baristas who make the coffee every Sunday and the 8 Grounds Crew who clean up have held their jobs for nearly 5 years. While a 2 new baristas and 2 new Grounds Crew have joined, recruiting has been a challenge for this team. We serve Equal Exchange coffees which are shade grown and environmentally responsible. We offer a French roast or regular and a Peruvian decaf as well as tea. If you are willing to join and help about once *every other* month, please contact the coordinator (dmburton21@gmail.com)

Hospitality *Kenn Allen, Coordinator* Hospitality for visitors and parishioners is offered after all services: *Coffee Hour* follows sermon seminar and Sunday school, light fare provided on a sign-up basis, by generous volunteers. *Pub Lunch* follows the 11:15 and is provided by volunteers who are reimbursed for expenses with the *Winged Lion Pub* serving both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. During the year, the Pub also supported various parish events as well. Former assistant stewards Doug Jackson and Jack Burton resigned and Michael Knipe, Assistant Pub Steward, retired from his post and was succeeded by Margie Ware. Pub lunch was less frequent than many years ago and members are encouraged to join together to provide this social opportunity. A *social hour* occasionally follows the 5 pm service.

Lambda Lions *Rob Hall, Convener* The Lambda Lions, our LGBTQ members, held a brunch gathering and co-hosted an art sale and reception to honor the work of the late David Evelyn, one of their founding members.

Lichfield Link *Doris Burton, Link Rep* We have had a friendship with this English cathedral in the Midlands with regular exchanges between the two representatives since 1989. More regular updates will begin soon. 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of this relationship. Visitors are still welcome on both sides of the pond. If you are traveling to the UK and would like to visit, please contact our rep.

Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner *Stephanie Deutsch, Cindy Dopp, Margaret Wood, Coordinators* March 29, 2018, we held our traditional dinner in conjunction with the service.

Middle-Timers/Baby Boomers *Rob Hall, Linda Staheli, Julie Murphy, Coordinators* This informal group of parishioners (aged roughly 40 – 65) had one potluck dinner and hosted two all-parish dances in 2018.

Parish Picnic During annual Vestry-organized picnic, more than 25 groups and organizations to set up tables to publicize their work and encouraged parishioners to join. This was the first fair after a hiatus since construction.

Parish Retreat In June, we returned to Claggett for a weekend of relaxation and reflection.

Third Agers *Don Gangloff, Coordinator* This group includes retirees and/or those over 60, but gatherings are open to all interested in the topic of the day. We have three midday Saturday potlucks followed by a program. Last May, our presentation was “Villages: Age Planning and Downsizing” by Monica, a friend of Liz Layton. The fall potluck featured Phyllis Jane Young relating “How To Get Rid of Stuff,” downsizing to prepare for your next move. At the February meeting, Deacon Cindy offered a prayer of remembrance for members who have died this year: Janice Brown, Susanna Gomez, Celia Hahn, Brock Hansen, Rick Hayes, Ken Lee, Lilly March,

at 2:30 pm. At the end of the second program, we celebrate the graduation of six students going on to college. The studio also gifted each graduate with fifty dollars along with flowers.

We had two great days for the 2018-19 fall registration on Thursday August 30 and Thursday September 6 along with our vendor from Les Gals. We registered 151 children averaging 10 children per class and 57 adults averaging nearly five per class. As of January 31, 2019, we have children and five adults on scholarship.



Our Open House presentation was November 16 with the theme of “The Performing Arts – A Place of Diversity”. Rev. Michele Morgan gave welcoming remarks.

We featured our own dancers, the Hill Winds, Choir member Charmian Crawford singing with the dancers, and the Great American Dancers led by Dennis Zotigh.

Music Studio *Jeff Kempskie, Director* Soprano Diane Atherton and pianist Stephanie Ng continued building their studios and attracting new students. Jeff still maintains a small number of piano students as in previous years. Diane and Stephanie's rental of the studio space provides modest annual income to the church. A recital for all piano students was held in mid-December and a voice recital took place in early February.

PARISH LIFE *Julie Murphy, Convener*

Parish Life continues to provide activities, events, and organizations allowing us to build community. The variety has changed over the years and if there's a kind of activity you would be interested in organizing and not found on this list, please contact the convener who will help you organize it.

20s & 30s *Emily McDuff, Convener* Parishioners in their twenties and thirties held monthly gatherings following the 5:00 pm service. The goal is to create a space for young adults to get to know each other and to discuss faith as a young person in Washington. For their winter community service event, they led a Sunday Supper at Franklin Square in December.

Answering Angels *Bob Ewald, Coordinator* This is a team of volunteers who work in rotation to answer phones in the office. There are currently 21 volunteers who provide this assistance to our staff. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Bob at llerbe@yahoo.com.

Archives and Parish History *Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Mary Cooper, Cecilia Monahan, Members*

We are dedicated to organizing our archives and promoting knowledge of our history. The archives are still a bit chaotic but that is an on-going and very time-consuming project.

In November, we mounted an exhibit to honor the World War I Armistice centenary featuring information gathered about former parishioners who, our register reflects, were involved in the war. We invited current parishioners who had family members who were engaged in the war to submit photos and/or information and were also included. The second half of the exhibit featured a variety of exhibits reflecting the home front and the overall impact on the population.

We respond to the occasional genealogical query for information about long-ago parishioners. While our oldest register is in extremely fragile condition, we continue looking for ways to do the research and care for these important records.

Mary Cooper, Archivist Extraordinaire, gave a presentation to a group of visiting seminarians on our relationship with LBJ (for information on that subject, just ask Mary.)

Book Group *Linda Ewald, Convener* (retired) This long-standing gathering of book lovers meets for a brown-bag lunch and discussion once a month. Linda Ewald stepped down but she hopes to announce new leadership soon. If you are interested in reorganizing and/or leading the group, Linda would be glad to share the list of books already read and an e-mail list of participants.

YEAR	PLEDGE UNITS	PLEDGES/ ADULTS	CHILDREN/ PLEDGING MEMBERS ¹	VISITORS (INCL. CHILDREN)	AVE. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	BAPTIZED MEMBERS ²	COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING ³
2008 ⁴						830	
2009	362	534	137	233	291	+31/-5 =856 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)
2014	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)
2017	326	463	103	106	279	+25/-7=635	635 (375A/260Y)
2018	331	477	123	155	284	(+22/-6)=651	651 (371A/280Y)

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 is the result of a ‘clean-up’ of the parish records done periodically by clergy.

LITURGICAL SERVICES						
YEAR	SUNDAY	WEEKDAY	PRIVATE EUCHARIST	MARRIAGES	BURIALS	BAPTISMS ⁹
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	
2017	153	58	0	3	7	
2018	162	63	8	2	7	20

⁸

the addition of a 3rd service

⁹ New stat in 2019

Reflects

ENDOWMENT BOARD Kathryn Powers, Cecilia Monahan, Co-Chairs

In 2002 the Vestry approved a charter creating an endowment allowing 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 2018 Disbursements and Activities

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. In 2018 \$29,471 was disbursed from this fund to partially cover payment for a survey of the church exterior and a third party assessment of how best to proceed with replacement of the HVAC system serving the nave and the old undercroft.

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 2018 \$15,000 was disbursed from this fund to partially cover payment for a survey of the church exterior and a third party assessment of how best to proceed with replacement of the HVAC system serving the nave and the old undercroft. \$706 was added to the fund from unspent previously disbursed endowment funds.

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 2018 \$529 was added to the fund from unspent previously disbursed endowment funds.

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. Among criteria for selection is a student essay describing a person who made a deep impression on him/her as he/she was growing up. The Dunbar Alumni Federation (DAF) selects the recipient. In 2018 a \$2500 scholarship was awarded from the fund.

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 2018 \$4620 was awarded 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 2018.

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 2018.

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	

and similar projects.

Visual Art shows dwindled after the death of their convener, David Evelyn. Anyone interested in leading that or another arts-related group should contact the convener.

The Council is a loose affiliation of visual artists of all levels of practice and seeks to support the work of St. Mark's by creating opportunities for parishioners to create art together in ways that enrich the life of our community.

In 2018, the Council:

- Led workshops to create hundreds of pysanky eggs and paper butterflies, assembled into a large mobile hung above altar during the Easter season.
- Created a response art project for the parish retreat giving parish groups the opportunity to summarize their discussions in words and images that became part of an altar cloth for the closing worship service.
- Partnered with the Lambda Lions to organize, publicize and host a retrospective show and sale of work by late parishioner David Evelyn. The show placed hundreds of pieces of Dave's work with friends and admirers, and his daughter, Meghan, made a substantial contribution to St. Mark's from the proceeds of the sale.
- Wood-worker Lynda Smith-Bugge led the creation of a wood assemblage sculpture at the Parish Fair in September, especially popular with the children.
- In September, Elin Whitney-Smith and Heather Powers initiated the Owls project. More than 35 people ranging in age from 4 to 97 were involved in one or more of the phases of the projects: collecting incidents of sexual harassment, folding origami owls, and installing the owls in the nave, foyer and Baxter Hall. 1353 owls were folded representing the number of incidents of sexual harassment experienced by 55 parishioners. The art installation was displayed for Epiphany 2019 (Jan. 5th to March 1st).
- During Advent, the Worship Committee worked with Tracy Council utilizing four of her icons to emphasize a theme in the scriptures for each Sunday. There was also an opportunity for parishioners to write particular prayers or inspirations displayed during the season in the nave.

St. Mark's Players

Leadership: President - Margaret Chapman; margachapman@gmail.com

Vice President - Mark Allen - markallen260@gmail.com

Treasurer - Roger Munter - redbarn@gmail.com;

Secretary - Heather Danskin - hdanskin@gmail.com

The Players produced 3 shows and reached roughly 1394 people as attendees. January 2018, we opened *A Bright Room Called Day* by Tony Kushner, followed by the ever-popular musical *South Pacific* in May. In October, we staged *Philadelphia Story* by Phillip Barry. We also launched 'Second Stage', a project incorporating outreach to the church and Capitol Hill community as part of its mission. In December, we hosted a joint caroling session with the choir and have several other events planned for 2019.

The Yoga Center Christine Romero, Director

For its 40th year, the Yoga Center met its annual \$1,200 use fee commitment to the Church. Monthly Yoga Nidra (Deep Relaxation) continues to be popular, as was a "Being Your Own Best Valentine" chair yoga workshop in February. Regular class attendance increased mildly, averaging 6 students per class with about 65 new student visits. January and September remain the most visited month, due to the biannual 1/2 Price Pass Sale. Several free classes were offered to the community: for veterans in November; once a month in the summer; honoring Rev. Dr. MLK Day; and our 5th year of awarding a 5class pass by drawing from used student passes; and as always first visit is free. A survey sent to our newsletter subscribers was overall positive, although some noted issues of room cleanliness and inconsistent lighting. Many responded that SMYC offered a safe, non-judgmental practice that accommodated an illness or injury concern, and the knowledge and skill of teachers was appreciated (most have been with SMYC 10 - 30 years). Two new teachers were added this year, one with decades of experience and one with training for PTSD and the veteran community.

Dance Studio Rosetta "Rosie" Brooks, Artistic Director

The Dance Studio participated in two annual recitals on Saturday June 2, 2018, both with welcoming remarks given by Rev. Michele Morgan: one for the younger students at 11:00 am and the other for the adults and teenagers

Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children and the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

Diocesan Committee: We continued to be active with the diocesan Holy Land Committee supporting education and pilgrimages and the annual simulcast by the National Cathedral and Lutheran Christian Church in Bethlehem.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Karen and Tom Getman began preparations for a 2019 dual narrative pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

St. Mark’s in Honduras 2018 was a year of monumental news for the agro-ecology project in the department of Santa Barbara. In April a non-profit, tax-exempt organization began operation as Sustainable Villages Honduras (www.sustainablevillageshonduras.org).

Farming families start by learning sustainable agricultural practices from other farmers who are using these practices. At the request of communities, the program has grown to address concerns about health, income-generation, and supporting the youth so they choose to stay rather than leave. The SVH program now reaches more than 50% of the population in seven rural mountain communities.

Climate change and access to water are two worldwide problems --including the SVH communities. Growing coffee in high altitude farms involves both using chemicals and deforestation. In February 2019, a group of SVH supporters from the US will travel to Honduras to see potential solutions to this problem and to visit the communities.

The Incarceration Justice Ministry of St. Mark’s seeks to address the crisis in our incarceration and justice systems. The problem is far too large and complex for any individual or particular church to take on alone, and the work is new to St. Mark’s. However, we feel called to commit ourselves to do whatever work we can do to contribute to the broader movement for compassion and social justice. While seeking to integrate our work into local, national, and international cooperation, we commit to specific work on this issue in at least three ways:

- To write letters to DC residents who are being held in federal prisons, both to ensure they have some meaningful empathic contact, and to educate ourselves about the realities that prisoners face.
- To working with a number of organizations – including, but not limited to Reunion Church, the Hope Foundation, and the Returning Citizens’ Action Network – to assist those exiting incarceration as they attempt to rebuild their lives.
- To make our voice heard at the local, state, and federal level to advocate for compassionate and rational reform of our incarceration and justice systems.

Meetings began in August of 2018. We have since received training from Rabbi Feinberg, who runs Interfaith Action for Human Rights, and many of our members have already received letters from their pen-pals. Our hope is that this ministry can expand over time as St. Mark’s continues its history of engagement in social justice in a new policy realm.

National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence *Cecilia Monahan*, coordinator

December 5th, 2018 we hosted the National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence for the fifth consecutive year We welcomed more than one hundred survivors and families as our guests for two days as they lobbied Congress for common sense gun violence prevention. We hosted around 400 people for the Vigil itself and a reception afterward. Dozens of parishioners volunteered their time and donated food for the reception.

Good Neighbors Capitol Hill (GNCH): Under Karen Getman’s leadership, the community has generously supported the GNCH project through financial and in-kind donations, and mentoring. We host their monthly meetings. GNCH are now serving more than 25 families with over 70 children and have recruited about 25 active volunteers from the 8 participating congregations. The project was recognized by the D.C. City Council in January.

ARTS COUNCIL *Tracy Councill, Elin Whitney-Smith, Co-Conveners*

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 shows/sales

2/14/19

St. Mark’s Endowment Funds
Treasurer’s Report as of December 31, 2018
2018 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

	Total		General		Arts		Building Preservation		Holtzma Capital Improvement		Holtkamp Organ Maintenance		Dozier Education		Craighill Dance	
Current Fund Value 12/31/2018	849,533		127,876		63,225		226,104		168,155		38,923		55,589		169,661	
Beginning Fund Value end of 2017 12/31/2017	946,871		134,553		66,790		267,740		191,630		41,118		61,177		183,863	
YTD Change in Account Balance since December 31, 2017	(46,982)	-5.0%	(7,206)	-5.4%	(3,565)	-5.3%	(12,165)	-4.5%	(9,181)	-4.8%	(2,195)	-5.3%	(3,088)	-5.0%	(9,582)	-5.2%
New donations/loan repayments during 2018																
Disbursements during 2018	1,235		529				(29,471)		706				(2,500)		(4,620)	
	(51,591)	-							(15,000)							
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of January 1, 2018 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)	822,355		121,384		57,139		231,989		161,533		35,176		54,039		161,096	
2018 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2018 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance)	41,118		6,069		2,857		11,599		8,077		1,759		2,702		8,055	
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009	3,113				3,113						968					
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	3,539				2,394						1,268					
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2014	3,933				2,665						1,422					
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2015	32,839		448		2,797		21,654		7,227		1,552		1,949		4,569	
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2016	48,504		6,791		2,808		20,104		7,576		1,645		2,419		7,603	
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2017	41,497		6,214		2,733		13,010						2,557		7,762	
Subtotal	183,647		19,522		25,510		66,367		22,880		11,752		9,627		27,989	
YTD Spent	(50,356)		529		-		(29,471)		(14,294)		-		(2,500)		(4,620)	
TOTAL 2018 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2018	133,291		20,051		25,510		36,896		8,586		11,752		7,127		23,369	

NOTES:
CRAIGHILL DANCE FUND

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

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY

RACE AND RECONCILIATION *inactive*

MEMBERSHIP, *Amber Macdonald and Ryan Baugh, Co-Chairs*

Peter Sherer turned leadership of the Committee over to the new Co-Chairs who have worked to understand past efforts of the committee, orient its work in 2019, and gather new enthusiasm around the work of ensuring we are as welcoming as we can be.

The committee has met monthly to determine the best ways to attract newcomers and to make interested new people feel like they belong here. We have identified some key steps in the process for someone to deepen their relationship to the church including taking the Newcomers class and the Belongings’ class, accepting a volunteer assignment and making a pledge among other indications of interest in membership. A group of newcomer greeters makes a personal contact with newcomers each Sunday to determine their interests. When a visitor fills out the form on the back of the bulletin indicating their interest in learning more, systems are now in place to ensure they receive a contact with offers of guidance on next steps.

From October ‘17 when the campaign started, to October ‘18, when it ended, 48 new pledges were entered. Some pledges are couples, so we can say we actually welcomed 63 new members. From October’ 18 when the 2019 campaign started to February 15, ‘19, we have welcomed 19 new pledge units, representing 27 new members.

STEWARDSHIP/CANVASS, *Rob Hall*

Following the action taken by the ‘17-’18 Vestry, the Stewardship Committee was formed with Rob Hall was named as chair. Other members include the Wardens, Treasurer, Membership chair, and representatives of the Endowment Committee and Vestry. The committee held its initial meeting September 2017 and thereafter engaged with the Legacy Lions¹ effort led by Junior Warden Kenn Allen, and parishioners Betty Foster, Tucker Harris, and Kathryn Powers. A Legacy Lions recognition and thank you event for members who have remembered St. Mark’s in their planned giving was held in November 2017. Since then, the focus of the committee has been on the strategic Extended Vision capital campaign.

Extended Vision2020 As of February 24, 2019, the campaign has raised \$1.42 million from 116 pledges and gifts. Our base goal is \$1.8M that will allow us to make the necessary safety and structural repairs to preserve our nave and the tower, well into this century. We are making nave improvements including a new HVAC to keep us warm in the winter and comfortable in the summer and installing a comprehensive sound system to allow us to hear one another more clearly. At the January party, we announced adding a stretch goal of \$2.2M to our campaign---upping our goal by \$400K. With every dollar we raise over \$1.8M, we pledge 90 percent of those funds to pay down our underlying mortgage and 10 percent making a gift to the world beyond our walls. If you have not yet pledged or would like to increase your gift, please see or email Jackie Boddie, Rob Hall, or Michele Morgan.

Canvass This year, we took a lower-key approach than last, partly not to compete with the Extended Vision campaign and partly due to personal time constraints. Michele selected the theme ‘The Power of Gratitude’, and provided thoughtful and compelling messaging in November. We tailored our personal notes to appeal to different generations with messages that would resonate with the different groups. We invited people to tell their stories in messages that spoke to their own engagement with and commitment to St. Mark’s. These are now posted in the Foyer— come take a look!

Results Here are the standings as of February 24, 2019, compared to 2018:

Year	Pledge Units	Amount	New Pledgers	Out of Town Pledgers
2018	288	\$861,829	36	6
2019	282	831,185	19	8

A longer-term goal is to combine a drive with a coordinated volunteer effort, providing an opportunity for the congregation, especially St. Mark’s youth, to connect to this widespread need and simple opportunity to contribute.

Advent Greening (\$495.26) For 2018 and upon request from the Worship Committee, the Outreach Board recommended that savings accrued from modest greening be directed to the Greater DC Diaper Bank, in recognition of a durable and practical ministry inspired by the notion of the infant Jesus.

Youth Programs (\$1150.71) Outreach has directed funds to support two youth-focused efforts during the year. \$500 to help fill backpacks.

The following affiliated programs are supported but not administered by the Outreach Board

GREEN LIONS The purpose of the Green Lions (our Environmental Committee) is to promote efforts to become better environmental stewards both in our spiritual home and in the world. **The original** Green Lions was founded in the 1990s and re-instated in October 2011 by a group interested in reestablishing efforts to become better environmental stewards. The Vestry approved the new Green Lions charter in June 2012.

Two activities sponsored by the Green Lions over the past year:

- A pub lunch on a faithful response to climate change led by Joelle Novey, Director of the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, a network that St. Marks’ belongs to).
- Celebrate Earth Day Garden Clean Up for families with young children last spring.

Two new initiatives underway:

- Building alliances east and west of the Anacostia to protect the land along its banks and pursue the twin goals of environmental conservation and eco-justice.
- Help the St. Mark’s clergy, vestry, liturgy planning committee, and other programs implement the Season of Creation Care resolution adopted at the 2019 Diocesan Convention.

The Green Lions meet the second Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m (Sept-May). For more information on the work of the Green Lions, contact Betsy Agle betsy@agle.net.

MID-EAST WORKING GROUP (MEWG) Maureen Shea, Jennifer Cate, Chris Herman, Karen Getman, Mandy Paust, Karen Wiedemann. Members have generously donated furnishings and funds as well as participating as volunteers or mentors. We have hosted a pancake breakfast for tutors and their families and are hosting a benefit concert February 9.

MEWG continues to provide opportunities to better understand the complexities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and to support our partners in the Holy Land including:

- **Middle East:** MEWG continues to provide opportunities to better understand the complexities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and to support our partners in the Holy Land including:
- **Events:** We hosted a number of groups and speakers including Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek on liberation theology, Churches for Middle East Peace, New Story Leadership, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer on Christian Zionism, and hosted a pub lunch in December.
- **Diocesan Committee:** We continued to be active with the diocesan Holy Land Committee supporting education and pilgrimages as well as the annual simulcast between the National Cathedral and Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem.
- **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Karen and Tom Getman have started preparations for a 2019 dual narrative pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Communications: Mandy Paust handles our email communication and Facebook page, through which MEWG sends out information about local events that offer different perspectives on aspects of the Middle East.

Supporting individuals and institutions in the Holy Land: With the donations from the Good Friday Offering and the proceeds from the Advent and Christmas sales we were able to donate \$3,200 to the Diocese of Jerusalem

Supporting individuals and institutions in the Holy Land: With the donations from the Good Friday Offering and the proceeds from the Advent and Christmas sales we were able to donate \$3,200 to the Diocese of Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children and the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

HART Parish members participated in CHGM’s Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART), which checks-in with chronically and temporarily homeless neighbors living on the streets on the Hill throughout the year and especially on hypothermia- and hyperthermia-alert nights. Other parish members supported Shirley’s Place by providing a weekly lunch for Shirley’s Place drop-in clients, and several others made weekly Food Rescue runs to deliver donated pizza.

Bishop Walker School (\$5,000) The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys is a tuition-free Episcopal school for children from traditionally underserved communities. St. Mark’s has regularly supported the school with financial donations.

The Trinidad Conservation Project (TCP) (\$1250) is an outgrowth of St. Mark’s longtime association with Honduras. TCP serves 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 activities. Funds were sent to Groundswell International to be overseen and distributed for TCP. (See further description below)

Salvation Army Grate Patrol (\$1021.06) 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, 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 118 bags of groceries and toiletries to SMGW from our altar baskets.

Sunday Suppers/Support Team and Soup Kitchen Activities (\$655) In the winter months, Sunday Suppers serves 15-30 people each Sunday. St. Mark’s has covered supper service the 3rd Sunday of every month by providing hot meals, eggs, sandwiches, and volunteers to serve. The eggs and sandwiches are purchased through Outreach Board funds, and parishioners donate food for the hot meal. In addition to providing a monthly meal and fellowship, we manage the coverage for all the other Sundays through a collaboration with Kingstowne Communion, Church of the Nativity, Aldersgate United Methodist, and many outside-of-church volunteers.

The Sunday Suppers Support Team and volunteers met monthly and prepared nearly 1100 sandwiches for the Sunday Suppers project at Franklin Square in downtown DC. Efforts were also successful in promoting donating leftovers from St. Mark’s events to the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church on Seward Square, SE.

Funded Programs in Addition to the Outreach Pillar Annual Budget
(private donations to Outreach Board-supported activities)

Lenten Mite Box Project (415.16) In recognition of the involvement of St. Mark’s youth to 2018’s Lenten Mite Box Project, the Outreach Board determined to direct the funding raised to an organization supporting local youth, raising the total figure to \$500 donated to Horton’s Kids.

Diaper Drive (\$500) Marika Klein organized St. Mark’s fourth diaper drive, collecting and delivering donations of diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene products to the Greater DC Diaper Bank, and directing the congregation to donate directly to the organization to leverage their advantageous pricing power. These efforts have contributed thousands of both donated products and dollars directed to diapering DC infants. The Outreach Board contributed \$500 to the GDCDB to support the enthusiastic effort which totaled some 4,000 diapers and nearly \$2,000 in cash donations.

Due to the lower-key approach, the uncertainty associated with the government shutdown, and some technical difficulties experienced by parishioners making their pledges online, we are a bit behind the pace we set last year towards our goal of \$890K and 50 new pledges. Although we are at 93% of the dollar goal, we have a gap to fill so your Vestry is involved in making calls and sending emails – as is your Rector. If you are one of those who pledged last year and intend to pledge this year, please go online to <http://www.stmarks.net/get-involved/donate-pledge/online-pledge-form/> or pick up a pledge form in the tract rack at church.

As last year, there are 6 pledge units who pledged for 2018 but have moved away or indicated that they have left and will no longer be pledging. Approximately 50 pledge units who pledged in 2018 had not yet made a pledge for 2019 as of February 24, nor have they indicated that they are withdrawing their membership. This is not atypical for our Canvass – the annual “clean up” of late pledgers usually happens at this time.

Reflections and Lessons Learned Our recent focus on increasing our membership base is clearly paying off and we can take great satisfaction in the growth we’re seeing. Since 2016, we have added 112 new members, and very few parishes in this diocese can claim such progress. Going forward, we need to keep our focus on all of our areas of strength: vibrant liturgies, excellent preaching and pastoral care, gracious hospitality, generous outreach, challenging choir music, nurturing children’s programs, and friendly encouragement of membership.

Thank you to Alix Pereira and Andrew Stafford for their invaluable assistance in running the Canvass “back office.” We also thank the Vestry for their support in pledging early and helping with the close-out calls and emails. Without all of you, we could not have had a successful Canvass.

Finally, and most important, we are enormously grateful for the generous financial support provided by nearly 300 parishioners, especially those who have pledged for the first time. You keep us going, and all of us in leadership positions – clergy, staff, Wardens, Vestry, officers, and committee chairs – feel the power of your gratitude!

¹ For a current list of the Legacy Lions, please see page 47

DIOCESAN REPORT *Jim Steed, Michael Knipe, Cecilia Monahan, Peter Nye, Lay Delegates;*
The Revs. Michele Morgan, and The Rev. Cindy Dopp, Clerical Delegates:

Fall Regional Activities: In 2018, as part of a pilot program, the in-person Regional Assembly meetings were eliminated in favor of online voting and smaller events. In the South DC Region, of which we are a member, the events were “Aging Well through Transitions to Transformation” (for seniors), “Finding God in DC” (for young professionals), and “Vestry Service: Taking on the Mantle of Spiritual Leadership,” with Bishop Mariann Budde.

Annual Convention: On January 26, 2019, our entire delegation to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington attended the 124th annual convention, themed “Holy Interruption,” at the Washington National Cathedral.

The **keynote address** was given by Rev. Nancy Beach, a leadership coach with the SlingShot Group, which “helps church leaders and teams to flourish in life and ministry.” She asked the assembled representatives to rate (privately, on paper) their congregations on what she called the “Eight Signs of a Healthy Church Culture:” Joy, Intensity, Self-Awareness, Humility, Trust, Men and Women Working Together with Mutual Trust, Commitment to Speak Candidly, and Love. She offered ministry and responsibility for a church’s culture are shared among clergy, staff and laity, and that church is a place where “we do life together.”

The **Report of the Committee on the Constitution and Canons**, was, in large part, a presentation of the fruit of six years labor to complete the process of restating the Diocesan Canons and conforming them to the Diocesan Constitution. This work was carried out in order to “provide good governance for the Diocese” and state them in a way that “meets necessary legal requirements and provides for transparency, practical administration, and public understanding.”

Three **Resolutions** were presented and approved:

- * Resolution on Creation Care: a statement encouraging all church organizations to care for God’s creation, including in liturgies, prayers and celebrations

- * Resolution Toward Full Communion with the United Methodist Church: an aspirational statement proposing a path as laid out in an Episcopal Church-Methodist Dialogue, “A Gift to the World, co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness.”
- * Resolution on Responsible Government and Politics: a statement condemning the recent partial federal government shutdown and exhorting Congress to pay all furloughed workers swiftly and to publicly resolve never again to use this tactic.

With the exception of Plant and Equipment, the **Draft 2019 Operating Budget** is forecasting expense increases across all categories. It also shows an increase in income, due to an uptick in congregational giving. Parishes were asked again to increase their pledges to the Diocese. We raised our pledge in 2018 to \$55,000 (up from \$40,000), and are holding at this amount for 2019. We have extensive building restoration work that precludes another raise at this time.

In **Bishop Mariann’s Address**, she spoke of her 2018 sabbatical, during which she visited non-Episcopal churches within the boundaries of the diocese. After her return, she affirmed she still feels called to be bishop, but that she has discerned that the diocese needs a different kind of leadership from her in the next seven years. She asked diocesan leaders to enter this year into strategic planning to examine current strengths and challenges, and to commit together to a “mutually-discerned vision of God’s preferred future for our diocese.” This process will involve leadership teams from each region working with diocesan staff, with input from all congregational leaders. There will also be outside guidance from Tony Morgan, the originator of the phrase “Holy Interruption,” and his Unstuck Group.

For more information about the convention, please visit: www.edow.org/about/diocesan-governance/convention

Two Groups support the Staff and Vestry:

ADVISORY COMMITTEES *Betsy Athey, Convener*

Advisory committees have assisted our clergy, wardens, seminarians and staff since 1975. Generally, they are composed of a lay convener, 7-9 parishioners representing a microcosm of our community and connected to parish life, and serve a 2-year term. The members support our leaders by offering themselves as a "sounding board," focusing on issues central to the work and life of the principal and providing feedback as requested. Regular monthly attendance, confidentiality, and the courage to "speak one's truth" are expected. This year there have been five Advisory Committees:

Rector *Cecilia Monahan, Convener*

Senior Warden *Mike Townsend, Convener*

Junior Warden *Kenn Allen, Convener; Fabric Committee*

Seminarian (ended Dec. 2018) *Bill Dickinson, Convener*

Youth & Family Ministries *Julie Murphy & Elizabeth Townsend Conveners*

If you are interested in being considered for an Advisory Committee, contact the Chair.

ELDERS *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, Conveners*

The Elders include all former Wardens and Directors of Christian Education. They meet upon the request of the Wardens, Co-Directors, Clergy or other Parish Leaders. An dinner for Elders and their spouses is held in the spring. There are currently 54 Elders living in the area and active. Nationwide, 66 Elders remain in contact.

These guidelines are intended to be broad, and implemented or adjusted by the teachers in correspondence with the make up and spiritual journey of each class.

OUTREACH *Steve Dalzell* Co-Chair (*Vacancy: Incoming Co-Chair*); Dan Ramish, Treasurer; Andrew Schmidt, Secretary (Note: Jack Burton served as treasurer from May-December)
Members: Sally Garr-Brodhead, Michael Knipe, Jack Richards, Jane Rutherford, Jim Brooks (Vestry Liaison)
Clergy/Staff: The Rev. Michele Morgan, The Rev. Scott Lipscomb, The Rev. Cindy Dopp, and Caroline McReynolds-Adams, Youth and Family Ministries Director

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: The Outreach Board acts as a catalyst for social justice in our commitment communities. We actively partner with nonprofit organizations that we determine highly effective in their service delivery. We commit our time, talent, and treasure to leverage our partners’ efforts of supporting individuals and families to develop their strengths and move toward self-sufficiency and self-determination. By doing so, we build relationships throughout the community and increase our knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing our neighbors in need.

Meetings: Every third Wednesday at 7 p.m., monthly, except August. (Possibly moving to Tuesdays in 2019.) Members address on-going issues regarding various programs and program status, evaluate funding requests, and requests for new program and event support.

Funded Programs from the Annual Budget (2018 funding amount is in parenthesis)

Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) (\$9300, plus \$1150 from Youth Program funds) 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 operates several neighborhood-serving programs. Last year CHGM assisted thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness to meet their basic needs, and supported hundreds of families in avoiding or transitioning out of homelessness. St. Mark’s members were instrumental in building one of these programs, Shirley’s Place, in response to the need for people experiencing homelessness to spend their day off the street. It provides a safe and comfortable place they can go for a meal, take a shower, do laundry, and talk with counselors.

Under the auspices of St. Mark’s CHGM Families Support Team:

- Thirteen parish members provided lunch for the 2018 weekly parenting classes, which wrapped up in August. CHGM planning for a new class is in the works.
- St. Mark’s youth filled 31 backpacks with school supplies for distribution, prior to the school year, to children served by CHGM.
- The tradition of hosting two Family Nights a year was reviewed. After consultation with CHGM management and the program manager, it was decided that such events are no longer necessary due to changes in how families are supported by CHGM.
- Upon learning that more families need support at Christmas, the St. Mark’s Team shifted its focus to recruiting parish members to participate in the CHGM’s Adopt-a-Family program to provide gifts to families in need. St Mark’s Youth adopted two families with a total of eight children. Another 14 families, with a combined total of 32 children, were served by other St Mark’s parish members. Many of the parish members who adopted families attended the well-received fun wrapping party in Baxter Hall. Interesting fact: St Mark’s provided Santa Claus for 9 percent of the families supported by the 2018 CHGM’s Christmas Adopt-a-Family program.
- At Thanksgiving, St Mark’s parish members provided 46 Thanksgiving Baskets (food and grocery gift cards) for families in need.

Communications: Mandy Paust handles our email communication and Facebook page, through which MEWG sends out information about local events that offer different perspectives on aspects of the Middle East.

- Scott offered a deeper exploration of spirituality, faith, philosophy and ethics through a critical and constructive discussion of central themes of human life as witnessed in scripture.
- Lay-led classes included:
- Sunday Morning Bible Study, or ‘Marching Through the Bible,’ a discussion class led by Bob Ewald, focusing this year on I Samuel, the story of Israel’s rocky transition from priest (Samuel) to King (Saul and David).
 - Tuesday Evening Bible Study began an exploration of the Christian mystic tradition starting with four medieval English mystics: Richard Rolle, The Fire of Love, the anonymous author of The Cloud of Unknowing, Walter Hinton, The Ladder of Perfection, and ending with Dame Julian of Norwich Revelations of Divine Love. The fall’s text was Karen Armstrong’s The Battle For God: A History of Fundamentalism. The leaders hope this becomes an ongoing inquiry into religious mysticism, as it is experienced in Christianity and other faith traditions.
 - Wednesday Morning Bible Study focused on the Hebrew prophets, who insisted on speaking God’s truth to power. Rabbi Abraham’s The Prophets serves a resource and guide to consider their lives, and how what they did impacts us today.
 - The Guild for Transformational Studies offered a short interactive class on synchronicity in November. Synchronicity looks at the connections between seemingly random phenomena, the recognition of which can lead to a deepening spirituality.

Christian Education leaders and participants used our annual weekend to look at questions of identity. Fourteen parishioners, including Michele, gathered at Claggett to focus on the tensions around being our authentic selves in an increasingly complex and polarized society. Conflicts between the roles we play in society, the expectations of others, the stereotypes attached to some of these roles, and the way we see ourselves were examined. Tensions between our desire to be independent and autonomous and our need to belong were considered. Interrupted by heavy snowfall, the class served to remind us how significant the retreat experience can be.

The youth program continues striving to create a Sunday school experience following a unified arc, providing both broad coverage of basic Christian lore and a unified message of community, trust, support, and a desire for spiritual growth. This arc traces the following path and themes:

Catechesis I (pre-K-K)

Theme: I am known and I am loved...

Focus: Love: Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Catechesis II (grades 1-3)

Theme:...so how will I act in the world?

Focus: Right and Wrong: Parable of the True Vine

Catechesis III (grades 4-5)

Theme:...as part of God’s community

Focus: Responsibility: Maxims, 10 Commandments

Middle School (grades 6-8) Focus: Finding an Even Keel

Theme year one: A Search For Identity Lore: Joseph and David

Theme year two: Establishing Community: I Have a Choice Lore: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Old vs New Testament

Theme year three: Looking Outward - I can shape my world Lore: Exodus

High School (grades 9-12) Focus: What are we called to do?

Theme year one: Self and Others Lore: Identity in relationships: Mark, Genesis

Theme year two: Belief and Unbelief Lore: Religion in Our Lives: Matthew, Amos

Theme year three: Justice and Inequality Lore: Social activism: Luke, Job, Abraham, Isaac

Theme year four: Endings and Beginnings Lore: Life transitions: Psalms



REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP Jim Steed and Rev. Scott Lipscomb, Co-Directors

In June 2018, Mary De Nys completed a second year as Co-director, having served with Jim Steed. Mary was succeeded as Co-director by Scott Lipscomb, Assistant Rector.

The Worship Committee is a group of lay, clergy, and staff members of the parish who work hard to craft worship that is meaningful, creative, and dynamic. During 2018, we continued the longtime practice of drawing on the worship traditions of the Book of Common Prayer, 1979, and, where appropriate, versions of the BCP from other branches of the Anglican communion. These we supplemented with lively liturgical expressions from other sources. Through our monthly meetings, we concentrated on enhancing the flow of liturgy and on better integrating of children and youth. We continue working to make the monthly Worship Committee meetings a meaningful experience for both laity and clergy.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018:

April

Holy Week:

Wednesday: Tenebrae service was held.

Maundy Thursday: The parish observed its traditional service, complete with foot-washing as an integral part of the liturgy.

Good Friday: Services were held at noon, followed by Stations of the Cross, and again in the evening, including the Veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday We continued our “Walking with Jesus” activity. This is a creative way for children and families to engage with the story of the Easter season. It drew numerous adult participants as well.

Greening Tracy Councill and a bevy of helpers also decorated the nave for Easter, creating a very agreeable setting for a remarkably modest outlay.

June The Committee welcomed the Rev. Scott Lipscomb, our new Assistant Rector.

June 6 we observed Banner Sunday marking the end of the church school year.

June 8-9 the parish held its annual retreat at the Claggett Conference Center.

August The committee held its annual retreat and planning session at St. Mark’s. The meeting initially considered “nuts & bolts” issues, highlighted by Scott’s introduction of a new software program, Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP), to automate much of signing up volunteers for the whole range of activities that support worship.

The committee next turned its attention to topics related to the Worship Committee’s broader mission. While acknowledging the importance of planning details, there was general agreement that we needed to find ways to involve parishioners in the worship experience beyond “nuts & bolts”. With that goal in mind, there were sessions open to all, led by Scott, at which we made plans for Advent, Christmas/Epiphany, and Lent. These sessions took place on Sundays after the 11: 15 service to accommodate those who find it difficult to attend evening meetings, whether on account of family commitments or otherwise.

September On the 9th, at the annual picnic. Worship and its various associated activities participated in the accompanying parish fair. Most worship groups displayed objects used in worship and invited parishioners to join.

October Doris Burton briefed the committee on the November 11 service commemorating the centennial of the World War I Armistice. Most of the work was done by Doris assisted by other parishioners. All were impressed by

the plan. Scott presented a sketch for the Advent season, beginning with a meeting after the 11:15 service October 7. This implemented a discussion held at retreat.

November The committee discussed plans for greening the nave and considered how best to allocate surplus money from the Advent Festival Fund offering. There was some further tweaking of plans for the Armistice Day commemoration.

December Scott reported Advent services were being well received but that participation in Christmas/Epiphany planning had not been as good. More outreach was planned for the Lenten planning. Response to the Armistice service and its accompanying exhibit in the parish hall was very positive. Pamela Lacey and company did an excellent job decorating the nave for Christmas.

January \$495.00 was sent to the Greater D.C. Diaper Bank after costs for decorations and special music for Christmas were met.

ACOLYTES: These are the boys and girls (at 9 am) and adults (at 11:15) who lead the procession and provide some assistance to clergy at the altar. Deanna Garner coordinated the 9 am group until January. Since then, scheduling has been done through MSP (see August). They are supervised by David Deutsch or the vergers on duty. The 11:15 acolytes, only 4 in number, are currently scheduled by Michael Knipe but will likely switch to MSP soon. Both groups are trained by the Head Verger.

ALTAR GUILD *Susan Ryerson, Doris Burton (clergy contacts)* The Altar Guild is comprised of 18 people, many of whom have served for decades. We are very excited to have four new members this year. Members serve in teams of two and are on duty about once a month. The AG teams set the altar for all services including weddings and funerals, about 300 a year.

Twice a year we meet on a Saturday to polish all the silver and brass. We are also responsible for seeing to repairs for all the vessels used in our liturgy, some dating back to the 1800s.

The AG meets annually for a meal, fellowship time, and a review of duties and assignments for the coming year. We also use that time to review policies and procedures in case of changes that have come about during the past year.

READERS' GUILD *Jim Steed, Coordinator* During the year a group of parishioners volunteer to read the lessons and prayers on Sunday. Usually these are the lessons appointed in the lectionary; but there are occasions when special readings are chosen to fit particular occasions, such as the "Lessons and Carols for July 4." Younger members of the parish contribute by volunteering to read the lessons during the Family Service on the second Sunday of each month. Interested parishioners can contact Jim.

VERGERS *David Deutsch, Head Verger* Following the choir tour to England in 1996, then Master of Ceremonies, Art Engler, suggested moving to trained vergers to oversee and manage our services. Since then, this small group has served in that capacity with membership shifting a bit over the years.

The mission of the vergers at St. Mark's is threefold. The vergers are to be:

- ◆ Caretakers of the liturgy
- ◆ Helpmates to the clergy: Michele, Scott, Cindy & Patricia
- ◆ Shepherds for the congregation

The Head Verger trains those who wish to serve.

Currently, the team includes: David, Josie Jordan, Michael Knipe, Jan Lipscomb, Loretta Veney for the morning services and Michael Bloomfield, Jennifer Cate, Martha Huizenga, and Michele Rivard for the 5 pm.

2018 saw those vergers continue to play an unsung role in the success of the Sunday services as they quietly and diligently prepare the way of the LORD and make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

MEDITATION CENTER SMMC, co-sponsored by the church and the Insight Meditation Center of Washington (IMCW), offers Mindfulness Meditation and a Dharma Talk on Monday evenings. This nondenominational open gathering, started more than 10 years ago and is about calming the mind, expanding compassion and insight, building community, and "getting better at life."

The **Steering Committee** meets monthly over a potluck vegetarian dinner. In February, it created the Sangha's Mission, Vision, and Values statements. In September, the whole Sangha wrote its own Metta, the concentrated meditation of "loving kindness" for oneself, others, and the wider world.

Weekly Participation in the Sangha has grown in 2018 from 15-20 people to 25-30 and comprises a diverse group of frequent members and visitors. Growing community in the Sangha included hosting our first "Friendsgiving," meditation and a potluck meal before Thanksgiving. The Sangha includes parishioners Collie Agle (Founder), Angie Cecil, Patricia Catalano, Jeff Kincheloe, Paul Orum, and Michele Rivard.

2018 Programming focused on the Noble Eightfold Path (a summary of the path of Buddhist practices) and the Brahma Viharas (the 4 Buddhist virtues and meditation practices to pursue them). Led by Sangha members, IMCW instructors, and special guests, the year also included guided discussion on meditation's foundational practices, effects on our brains, and reliance in different faith traditions.

Daana (free-will offerings at the Sangha) of approx. \$3K were disbursed in contributions to the church and to IMCW instructors, and in donations to NGOs (both from the Sangha and in the name of instructors, in lieu of honorariums to them). These NGOs were Everybody Wins DC (increasing students' literacy), the Friends Meeting of Washington Capital Campaign, Machik Inc. (strengthening communities in Nepal), Theater Alliance (producing works about DC), Minds, Inc. (offering mindfulness meditation in DC schools), and the International Campaign for the Rohingya.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Jane Sherman, Don Ellison, Co-Directors*

Christian Education is divided into two areas: adults and youth. The adult program seeks to offer pathways to investigate, reflect on, and deepen our spiritual lives and to aid in the search for meaning.

There are many types of offerings and we are open to and encourage any suggestions emerging from the particular interests or experiences of our parishioners. In the fall, parishioner Mary Thuell offered a weekly class titled *Friendship in the Present Moment*. An introduction to the tools of authentic relating, the class focused on the practice of forming and maintaining authentic relationships through a repertoire of engaging, structured exercises and games.

Christian Education continues to offer invitations into the community:

- For the smallest newcomers (and their parents), we offer a semi annual Baptism Class, this year led by Steve and Jennifer Dalzell. Over four weeks in fall and spring new families or older candidates for baptism, consider the commitment of joining a faith community.
- We began offering semi-annual, or as needed, newcomer dinners. Hosted by parishioners who live near them, these dinners offer an opportunity for newcomers to meet and engage with others, old and new, to hear more about St. Mark's, and to ask questions about our community.
- The Belonging Class Revs. Michele Morgan and Scott Lipscomb, Susan Thompson and Rita Ossolinski are leading a class of 23. The key goal of the Belongings Class is to provide participants with a safe and supportive environment that encourages belonging at St. Mark's. The class appeals to new members as well as those who have been members at St. Mark's for some time, and many take this course again and again to make new friends and continue to experience belonging at a deeper level.

We continued to embrace diversity with a broad range of adult offerings.

•A functional class for men was offered in October. *Manning Up/Falling Down: The Balance of Men*. The class led by Stewart Andrews, Rob Hall and Don Lipscomb, had a healthy 14 attendees, with a powerful weekend at our old staple, DuPont House. Feedback included praise for the leaders' balanced approach to the class and the wish for a more frequent men's class. A men's group is being formed from the class, a dynamic which has worked in the past to create deeper, lasting connections within the church community.

Numerous regular classes were offered throughout the liturgical year.

- Led by both Michele and Scott, they offered a study of Scripture through the lens of the relative roles and responsibilities of religion and politics.