



St. Mark's + Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting & Report to the Parish

March 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022

March 27, 2022

Volume 13

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CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

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

Warden:

David Wellman, Junior Warden

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

Harrison Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, Nick Rogers

Vestry: one seat, for a term of two years

Katherine Buchanan

Diocesan Delegate:

one seat, for a term of three years: Tom Getman

one seat, for a term of two years: Mary Neznok

one seat, for a term of one year: Ruth Roman

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Kit Arrington, *Chair*; Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, *Members of the Vestry*
Margaret Crenshaw, Lynn Kneedler, *Members of the Parish*;
The Rev. Michele H. Morgan *ex officio*

2022 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Zoom room opens at 11:30 am

12:00 Opening Prayer

The Rev. Christopher Phillips

Call to Order

The Rev. Michele Morgan, Rector

12:05 Announcement of Quorum

Kim Bayliss, Register

12:08 Approve Minutes of the 2022 Meeting

Acknowledgement of Annual Report

12:10 State of the Parish

Outreach

Julie Murphy, Chair

12:13 Christian Education

Karen Falk, Co-Director

12:16 Sabbatical Committee

Kenn Allen, Louise Walsh, Co-Chairs

12:19 Financial Report

Frank Nickerson, Treasurer

12:22 Senior Warden

Linell Grundman

12:27 Rector

Michele H. Morgan

12:40 Elections

Kit Arrington, Nominating Committee Chair

Junior Warden

- Nominations from the Floor
- Responses from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Vestry 3-year term

- Nominations from the Floor
- Responses from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Vestry 2-year term

- Nominations from the Floor
- Responses from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

We have streaming services, Zoom classes and meetings, masks and social distancing, gradual returns to in-person gathering, and we're heading into a rector sabbatical. How do you see these changes impacting what St. Mark's will look like in the future?

Diocesan Delegation

- Nominations from the Floor
- Remarks from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Please share with us how you see your role of representing St. Mark's to the Diocese, and as a messenger from the Diocese to us.

1:15 Results of the Balloting

1:20 Final Acknowledgments

Rev. Morgan

Blessing and Closing

The Rev. Patricia Catalano

Adjournment

Note from the Archives and Parish History Committee

The contents of this Report continue to reflect the impact of the Corona Virus (Covid-19) on the people of St. Mark's, the city of Washington and its environs, and the nation. While in-person services returned in June, 2021, many parishioners remained concerned about the impact of the virus and its variants (Delta then Omicron) and stayed home. Despite the availability of vaccine, many Americans refused to be vaccinated and, among the vaccinated, break-through cases were not infrequent. By 2022, booster shots were available and encouraged and, in February, the CDC announced a safe vaccine for children under 5. While controversy continues, a new vaccine has been announced and its source may make it more palatable to those unvaccinated. Meanwhile, in March, the CDC announced masking requirements could be lifted, local jurisdictions deciding when and how that would happen.

Details as to how we managed can be found in the Re-opening Committee report.

As this report goes to press (3/21/22), the world has had 6.06 million deaths and the nation 965,575 deaths from Covid. For additional details of the impact of the pandemic, see Annual Report 2020 and 2021.

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

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

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

Article III The Vestry

301. Vestry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

404. Tenure and Vacancies

A. Wardens. Except as provided in paragraph D.1, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden will hold office for a 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 any Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate before the end of the Member's or Lay Delegate's three-year term, the Vestry may appoint a member of the Parish to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, when the members of the Parish will elect a member or Lay Delegate to fill the vacancy. The newly elected Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate may hold office only for the remainder of the term to which he or she succeeds.

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

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

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

B. Alternate Delegates. At the first Vestry meeting after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect one or more Alternate Lay Delegates to *the Regional Assembly*¹ and the Convention of the Diocese of Washington. An Alternate Lay Delegate designated by the Vestry assumes the duties and responsibilities of a Lay Delegate when the Lay Delegate is absent.

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

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

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

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

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

502. Powers of the Vestry.

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

B. Specific Powers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

504. Duties of the Register The Register shall:

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

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

505. Duties of the Treasurer

A. Treasurer. The Treasurer will:

1. act under the supervision of the Vestry;

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

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

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

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

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

Article VI Rector

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

Article VII Amendments

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

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

Adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting, April 3, 1964

Amended at the Annual Parish meetings of:

April 16, 1971, April 7, 1972, April 23, 1976, April 15, 1977, April 16, 1982, April 8, 1988¹

April 19, 2002(election of Diocesan Delegates)

(Also approved: approx. 90 minor changes—some stylistic, some required by changes to Canon 25)

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)

¹No minutes of the Annual Meetings prior to 1988 survive to identify the contents of these amendment

MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

March 14, 2021

DRAFT – for approval at the 2022 Annual Meeting

To comply with COVID-19 safety protocols, the Annual Meeting was held virtually via Zoom video conferencing platform.

The Rector, Rev. Michele Morgan, opened the meeting.

The Reverend Cindy Dopp, Deacon led the opening prayer.

The Register, Kim Bayliss, announced the presence of a quorum (87 devices logged in to the meeting.) Total attendance online was 176 devices.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes of the 2020 Annual meeting were approved without objection.

Acknowledgement of the Annual Report: The Rector thanked Doris Burton for her work in pulling together the annual report which was distributed via email to all parishioners.

State of the Parish:

Steve Dalzell, Outreach Board Chair – Highlights for the last year include reprogramming money to go where it is most needed in the community in light of the pandemic; rejoining WIN to fulfill the Board's mission of being a catalyst for bigger change; and featuring the work of prison ministry during Lent.

Greg Niblett, Co-Coordinator for Christian Ed – Congratulated all the teachers and clergy for keeping Christian Ed programs going during the pandemic.

John Edwards, Treasurer – In spite of the pandemic which shut down the building to rentals substantially reducing revenue, St Mark's finished the year with a sizable surplus that puts the church in good financial position for 2021 and beyond. The generosity of parishioners and the gift from Joya Cox together with the Paycheck Protection loan and forgiveness and reduced expenses were responsible for the good financial outcome.

Michele Morgan, Rector – The goal during the pandemic was to keep St. Mark's fully functional even though the building was closed. Michele recognized the efforts of staff, lay leaders, and volunteers for making this happen and is looking forward to hiring an Assistant Rector and gathering in person soon.

Ryan Baugh, Senior Warden – Ryan recognized the support of the Senior Warden's Advisory Committee and thanked everyone for their help in what was a challenging year for St. Mark's and him personally.

Elections: Christina Herman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, opened the floor for nominations.

Nominated from the floor were:

For Senior Warden – Linell Grundman

For three-year Vestry terms – Chris Berendes, Jeb Ory, and David Wellman

For one two-year Vestry term – Edna Boone

For Diocesan Delegate – Susanne Allen

Each candidate made brief remarks. Having no contested races, each candidate was approved by acclamation.

Final Acknowledgements: The Rector thanked the following officers and vestry for their service - Peter Nye as Diocesan Delegate; Brandon Knight, Amber Macdonald, and Christina Herman, members of the vestry; and, John Edwards as Treasurer.

The Rector acknowledged the help of the team that made the Virtual Annual Meeting run smoothly: Charlie Rupp, Elin Whitney, Chris Berendes, Tracy Councill, Kit Arrington, Shay Waye and Andrew Stafford.

Senior Warden's Advisory Committee presentation: Stewart Andrews, presented out-going Senior Warden, Ryan Baugh with a gift.

The Senior Warden recognized the Rector's extraordinary leadership during the coronavirus pandemic.

Closing prayer was led by The Reverend Patricia Catalano.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Bayliss, Register

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	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 24, 2019	140	Mary Anderson Cooper
July 12, 2020 (Virtual)	174	Kim Bayliss
March 14, 2021 (Virtual)	176 devices* 417 total	Kim Bayliss

VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN *Linnell Grundman*

This time last year we were not worshipping in person but were streaming worship services on Facebook. Following 2021 Annual Meeting, the Regathering-Reopening Committee met regularly and began to develop a plan for reopening once the Diocese authorized it. In June, we began coming together in person again to worship. Following public health protocols involving registering for services but also being able to register at the door, we were elated to gather in the nave and for coffee hour in the courtyard. A huge thank you to the many volunteers who made all of that possible, beginning with the volunteers who trained for the specific Sunday jobs related to maintaining public health protocols that we feel are so important in our commitment to caring for all, especially our most vulnerable. By August 1st, we no longer required pre-registration and in September we resumed our Sunday three-service schedule along with live streaming the 11:15 a.m. service. It has been beautiful to witness the coming together of our community and the arrival of new folks every single Sunday throughout the fall.

Early in my tenure, I felt it was important to meet with our Elders who are defined as former Sr. and Jr. Wardens and former leadership of Christian Education. I met in three, ninety-minute sessions with a total of 45 elders. It was, needless to say, insightful especially given the challenges COVID has imposed upon our community. I appreciate the experience and advice these meetings imparted.

In spring, I joined the reorganized Search Committee for an Assistant/Associate Rector. We conducted all our meetings on line. The nationwide search yielded a robust group of qualified candidates. The end result was calling Rev. Christopher Phillips to be our Associate Rector (now Assistant Rector). It was a happy day when he came to worship in August and, following that service, signed his contract. Rev. Phillips has committed himself to our parish in loving and resourceful ways. We continue to welcome his presence.

Immediately upon becoming your Senior Warden, I began to take advantage of the many online offerings for training in various aspects of parish life and church operations, both through the diocese, national church, and other church professional organizations. Eventually this would include a meeting for wardens with Bishop Budde. Her opening insights were affirming and inspiring. She immediately acknowledged that lay leadership is a ministry, a concept foundational to St. Mark's for more than 60 years. She also stated that Canon Law is vague as it relates to the relationship between the rector and vestry, emphasizing, as in all things, it is the relationships that count most, a guiding principle for life and for work as a lay leader in our beloved community.

In the summer, the Vestry supported the formation of a Personnel Committee Task Force. Having been without a Personnel Committee at St. Mark's for many years, Rev. Morgan supported the need for one and for its work. I convened members Jim Pitman (Jr. Warden) Frank Nickerson (Treasurer), Greg Niblett, Jillian McGreen, Shay Way (Vestry), Rob Hall, Amber McDonald, Brandon Knight (former Vestry and Personnel Liaison), and our wonderful note-taker, Mary Cooper. We met throughout the summer, ending our process by the end of September. In October a resolution was placed before the Vestry supporting its formation as a standing committee and the Personnel Committee began its work in January 2022.

In the spring, I began meeting with Jr. Warden Jim Pitman and Treasurer Frank Nickerson to discuss long term capital needs for the church and how to plan funding for them. Jim, in his 3rd year as Jr. Warden, definitely had a handle on the needs. He devised a presentation that we would eventually share with a working group that included clergy, Kenn Allen, and Bill Jordan. He made the case for developing a funding strategy for the future. In conjunction with this, Jim began an assessment of future capital infrastructure needs such as repairs of the roof, etc. These discussions turned into the plan to establish both a Building Reserve Fund and a Building Stewardship Policy. Coordination with the Endowment Committee was a component of the many months of planning and work. Both the fund and the stewardship policy were eventually supported by the Finance Committee and the Vestry.

I was happy to recommend and participate in a focus group related to Sunday School as we approached returning to in-person classes in the fall of 2021. It was an effort of excellent coordination both for Christian Education and our Youth

and Family Ministry Director, Caleb Nelson Amaker. I give tremendous gratitude to Christian Education and all our Sunday School teachers as well as to Caleb. Because of the programming for our children, fall brought a return to normalcy that was uplifting to the community.

We were able to once again have our Parish Fair in September, moving the whole event outdoors. Snacks, ice cream, and soft drinks were served. It was well attended and I would definitely say a good time was had by all.

In May, I was delighted to begin meeting with my Advisory Group. We have a culture of providing advisory groups for clergy and leadership. It is a way for them to enter more deeply into dialogue with parishioners. It is a support for their work and to their parish relationships. The convener of the Advisories, Betsy Athey, helps the leader choose people that represent the diverse demographics of our community. I have a wonderful committee: Susan Thompson as the convener along with members Joel Wilson, Ruth Roman, Julie Murphy, Betty Foster, Lou Bayard, and Kenn Allen. I thank them for all they have taught me this year.

When a noose was found hanging from the large oak tree (ed: Ginny Adams' tree) in the courtyard garden shortly before Holy Week 2021 began, it was obviously shocking and frightening. The police were called and the unit that deals with these types of events was very helpful. They reported the incident to the FBI which would determine if a hate crime investigation would take place. Ultimately, one did not. The incident put me in touch with a group in DC Homeland Security that provides information and support to faith communities. I am now in regular contact with them and get important updates regarding public safety in our neighborhood, trainings, and information about grants.

Following this disturbing event, we determined the need to install more cameras this group emerged to look closely at the existing policy, updating and improving it. Jim Pitman, Junior Warden, and Vestry members, David Wellman and Chris Berendes plus parishioners Loretta Veney, Lori Ann Madhok, and Agatha Schmaedick Tan gathered for the creation of this policy. Then, in a lovely gesture of unity and peace the week following the incident, the Washington Hebrew Congregation presented St. Mark's with the unity bench gracing our courtyard. They wanted to show their solidarity and express their love and concern for us. The presentation took place on a Saturday afternoon and was well attended.

I am grateful to have participated in the exit interviews for our outgoing deacon, The Rev. Cindy Dopp, which proved educational. We were able to have a lovely service for Cindy's farewell and thank her for the years of service and wish her well in her ministry. I appreciate that she was able to teach a class on Pastoral Care this fall and include us in work she is doing for a Pastoral Care degree program.

The Vestry has been unable to have a retreat for several years and the class of 2022 was very eager that one be planned. It was wonderful to work on this with Andrew Stafford (class of 2022), new vestry member Christopher Berendes and our clergy. The retreat took place in October, at church, and in person. Plans are currently underway for a retreat the weekend following our 2022 annual meeting, which is the preferred time. We are happy to have this important event back on the calendar.

By summer, I was convinced it is essential and appropriate to put the pieces together and advocated for a sabbatical for Rev. Morgan. I told her of my hope and in November, presented a resolution supporting the upcoming sabbatical for Rev. Morgan. It was unanimously approved.

Kenn Allen and Louise Walsh agreed to co-chair a sabbatical committee. They are doing an outstanding job preparing the community for Rev. Morgan's sabbatical which will begin in late April. I learned a great deal about fostering this and thank everyone who shared their time and talents in this parish-wide effort of support for Michele. Her sabbatical is overdue by nearly two years so it is especially important that this is happening now. I look forward to being devoted to the day-to-day operations of the parish while Rev. Morgan is enjoying her much deserved rest. I give great thanks to the entire Vestry and team who will be taking care of our beloved community in her absence including The Rev. Patricia Catalano who consented to be part-time member of the staff during the sabbatical. I thank Personnel Committee members Brandon Knight and Monica Mills for working on Rev. Catalano's contract.

Following conversations with parishioners regarding the need for more intergenerational opportunities, a plan came together for a Christmas project. Designed by Betty Foster, Tracy Council (Arts Pillar convener), Caleb Nelson Amaker

(Director of Youth and Family Ministry) and I joined her. We installed a live Christmas tree in Baxter Hall to be decorated by handmade ornaments. The event was well attended and brought together our beautiful multi-generation church family in fun and fellowship.

In early 2022, parish-wide pastoral care planning commenced. I convened a group of twenty-three folks to discuss what kind of care was happening, to assess the needs we have, and to start small-group work developing a parish-wide pastoral care plan. Strong voices in the group were folks who had taken the Pastoral Care Class offered in the fall. The goal is to have a draft plan for Rev. Morgan by mid-April so she can comment on it before she goes on sabbatical. Implementation will begin once the draft has been approved. This will involve the formation of a Pastoral Care Committee. As a result of a generous gift from an anonymous donor, the committee will have seed money.

After the great success of the Vision 2020 campaign and the extraordinary generosity of our late parishioner, Joya Cox who left us more than \$1 million, we were able to close out the extended Vision 2020 Campaign at the end of 2021. In doing so, excess funds, per a promise to the parish during the campaign, were earmarked for special projects in Outreach. The Outreach Committee made recommendations for three projects and I am happy to report all three projects were funded in February of this year following a process of coordination between the Finance Committee and the Vestry.

The budget season produced a robust conversation with the Finance Committee, leadership, and a small working group. The outcome of the annual campaign was naturally considered. While we did not have the maximum outcome we would have liked from the annual canvass, I am happy to report that all our Parish Managers received their budgetary requests. I thank the parish for your generosity and devotion to St. Mark's.

Realizing that a Stewardship Committee was not in place and was needed, I began recruiting members. Thanks to the help of Vestry Member David Wellman, Treasurer Frank Nickerson, and Assistant Treasurer Randy Marks, the existing charter for the Stewardship Committee was updated. At the February 2021 Vestry meeting, the revised charter was approved along with the appointments of parishioners Margie Ware, Raiford Gaffney, Matthew Dodge, Martha Huizenga, and Thomas Getman. They will join the standing members from our finance-related committees and clergy and will have their first meeting on March 8th.

St. Mark's organizes itself using a "pillar" model: Worship, Christian Education, Art, Outreach, and Parish Life. Due primarily to the COVID shutdown, we have not been working with the pillar structure but Rev. Morgan and I decided it was time to revitalize it. The current chairs will meet and begin a process of assessment and discernment.

While we are not seeing the attendance we had pre-COVID, our beloved community is thriving in so many ways. Our church family continues to grow and our Sunday school continues to reflect our future. It is a great honor to be your Senior Warden for another year. I love each and every one of you and all those who our church touches. May we continue to be a powerful agent of God's love and peace in this world.

JUNIOR WARDEN *Jim Pittman*

For our welcoming building, it has been mostly a year of detail and relatively little things for repair and replacement inside and out. As these little things added up, we exceeded the targeted "repairs and maintenance item" but stayed well within the overall budget parameter for the Junior Warden.

Putting all the little things behind us, we were able to see the future needs of the building and grounds by developing and completing their life cycle analysis of this complex building. This analysis gives us the best look at real costs in today's dollars for maintaining the church building and grounds for generations to come. In turn, what was once an overwhelming task is now a reality that our parish will provide through targeted donations and annual budgeting towards the newly approved Building Reserve Fund.

In the daily wear and tear of our building being used year-round, it is difficult to stop and assess what is needed. Because of the lengthy shutdown, I was able to do a deep assessment of what we need to do to keep the church in great condition. Some of these will just be hopes for future Junior Wardens and were not completed during my time in office. Some of the ideas will become targets for completion like these were for the church:

- Developed operating procedures to produce annual life cycle data to utilize in monetary management of the building and grounds
- Origination and approval of the “Building Reserve Fund”
- Purchased, installed, and set up cameras for streaming services in the nave
- Purchased, installed, and set up a security camera system for the perimeter of the building and grounds
- Installed a flexible water barrier in the small alley south of the nave to minimize water seepage into the Lion’s Den
- Installed new manual flush valves in the basement bathrooms to eliminate all the malfunctioning auto-flush toilet valves
- Installed new metal framing to improve the operation of the courtyard door
- Replaced the rotten wood doors off the basement on 3rd street with new fire code safety metal doors
- Replaced/repainted/painted rotten wood on the soffits, dormers and windows around Baxter Hall, kitchen and arts/dance studio.

Thank you to all those who help care for the building and I thank you for the opportunity to be of service. I will continue on as a member of the Fabric Committee and will be of service to the next Junior Warden.

Columbaria *Penny Hansen, Doris Burton, Coordinators*

According to “The Organization St. Mark’s Church”¹ and by tradition, the Junior Warden is responsible for the columbaria at the high altar and in the Chapel of the Nazarene. While management belongs to the Rector (due to the nature of the spaces) two volunteer coordinators handle details: Penny handles all sales and Doris orders plaques for the chapel and high altar structures.

- **Nave Columbarium** Constructed in the 1970s, it consists of 75 fully subscribed niches. The plaques are now fabricated by Matthews International, a foundry in Pittsburgh, PA. While like so many businesses, the foundry has been operating on a reduced schedule, we continue to place orders for new/add-on plaques as needed. If your niche requires a new plaque, please contact the coordinator at dmburton21@gmail.com. Signcraft of Annapolis is available to fabricate urns to fit these niches.
- **Chapel Columbarium** 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 83 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

¹This document can be found in the Vestry notebook and has been updated as policies and procedures have changed. For contents, see the Senior Warden.

	MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY MARCH 1, 2021-FEBRUARY 28, 2022 Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action is listed by month-year (03-13=March 2013)
02-21	VA: Directed the Finance Committee to apply for a second PPP loan to defray the salary for the St Makr's Yoga and Dance Studios. VA: Accept the Finance Committee recommendations for allocation of the budget surplus.
03-21	VA: Appointment of Vestry officers: Frank Nickerson (Treasurer), Mary Thuell, (Counsel), Kim Bayliss (Register)
04-21	VA: Adoption and forwarding of the report of the Reopening and Regathering Committee to the Diocese for approval.
05-21	VA: Approval of Housing Stipend for Caitlyn Frazier in the amount of \$1500 per year for the three years she is at seminary.
06-21	VA: Authorization for the Treasurer to open a separate Vanguard Star Fund Account for each of the Building Reserve (Account 70517), Operating Reserve (Account 70500), and Sabbatical Reserve (Account 70535) and transfer the full amount from those accounts into the appropriate Star Fund Account, and with approval of the Senior Warden to approve transfer of \$10,000 from the Building Reserve Star Fund Account to a Vanguard Fund with a higher return and acceptable risk. VA: Approval of the creation of a personnel committee. VA: Approval of Baxter Hall beams fundraiser proposed by Nora Howell to make trivets from the wood beams salvaged during renovation requiring up-front expenditure of \$1500.
08-21	VA: Acceptance of letter designating 30% of the Assistant Rector's compensation for housing. VA: Approval of Janet Vail and Doug Ammon as Money Counters.
09-21	VA: Authorize the Senior Warden and the Treasurer to execute T Rowe Price documents related to the release of funds from the estate of Don Mosher. VA: Approve an expense of \$7,038.24 to buy out the copier lease agreement. VA: Creation of Security Camera Policy Task Force
10-21	VA: Approve the formation of the Personnel Committee.
11-21	VA: Approve application of the \$4,763 in the Historic Preservation Designated Fund for the tuckpointing of the church bricks. VA: Approve amendment to the "Basic Criteria for Temporarily Restricted Donation" on page 2 of the <u>Gift Acceptance Policy for St. Mark's Episcopal Church</u> as follows: Add "temporarily" to point 2, so it reads "The purpose of the gift is the same as an existing, active temporarily restricted fund." Add new point 3: "The gift will follow the same disposition agreement as well as any time restrictions held by the initial Vestry-approved gift that formed the existing active temporarily restricted fund." VA: Adoption of policy regarding the Building Reserve Fund specifying that it should be used exclusively for non-routine replacement of major building components and systems and building improvements. The Vestry may dissolve the Fund or move money from the Fund only under extraordinary circumstances that are necessary for the continued welfare of the church. VA: Approve the appointment of John Anthony Meza, Janice Gregory, Brandon Knight, and Monica Mills to serve on the Personnel Committee. VA: Set the date for the Annual Meeting, 3/27/22 and Vestry Retreat for 4.2.22.
12-21	VA: Approval of the 2020 Audit. VA: Authorization for the transfer of the Donnelly bequest to the Building Reserve fund and to direct the Senior Warden, Rector, and Treasurer to honor the Donnelly provisos that some of the funds be spent on improved lighting for the nave and a way to hang artwork in the Nave. VA: Adoption of the Security Camera Policy with clarifying edits as agreed upon during the Vestry meeting.

1-22	<p>VA: Approval of an <i>Afghan Refugees Temporary Restricted Fund</i> as a Vestry-directed temporary restricted fund to be used to support the Parish's outreach work to aid Afghan refugees. The Outreach Board Chair (or successor role) shall authorize all Fund disbursements. The Fund shall last for four (4) years, unless the Vestry terminates it earlier or otherwise adjusts the term of the fund. Upon termination, any money in the Fund shall automatically go to the Outreach Board budget.</p> <p>VA: Adoption of a Building Stewardship Policy.</p>
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TREASURER'S REPORT *Frank Nickerson; Randy Mark (Assistant Treasurer), Rev. Michele Morgan (Rector) Linell Grundman (Senior Warden), Jim Pittman (Junior Warden), Dave Wellman (Vestry Liaison), Kenn Allen, Carolyn Marsh, Tricia Eisner, Raiford Gaffney, Annick Milde (Parish Finance Administrator; February 2022 to present), Finance Manager Patricia Braley (through January 2022), and Mary Cooper, Minutes.*

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that our finances are in good condition, that our church continues to do well both in caring for our resources and positioning ourselves for future growth.

Duties: The Committee meets monthly and has the following duties:

- Review the church's finances every month, with an in-depth review each July and report its analysis to the Vestry.
- Recommend the annual budget to the Vestry.
- Monitor the church's financial operations and make necessary policy recommendations to the Vestry.
- Assist and advise the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Accomplishments and Issues:

- The Committee recommended and the Vestry adopted a balanced budget for 2022. The budget was funded in part from the outstanding 2021 which generated a surplus of approximately \$200,000 resulting from overpayment of 2021 pledges, prepayment of 2022 pledges, and underspending including being without an Assistant Rector for the first half of the year. See the report and budget which follows this.
- The church benefited from a federal COVID Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan which the federal government forgave. The Vestry decided not to seek a second PPP loan, because the Church, fortunately, did not need it.
- We continue to bask in the after-effects of Joya Cox's transformational 2020 bequest of \$1.1 million which paid off our mortgage, eliminated lines of credit, and mortgage interest and without which we would continue to have these costs in some form. We are grateful and fortunate.
- Building Stewardship:
 - The Committee received a report from the Junior Warden about the resources the church needs to provide for the continued structural integrity of the building. Planning ahead for necessary building expenses will avoid increasing our costs by delaying necessary building work and will help us avoid painful cutting of programs or staff to pay for emergency repairs.
 - Based on it, the Treasurer agrees with the Junior Warden that we need to set aside on average at least \$120,000 per year over the next 20 years to prepare for these costs.
 - The Committee recommended and the Vestry approved the establishment of a Building Stewardship Policy.
 - The Policy modified the existing Building Reserve Fund, which had about \$105,000.
 - The Church received generous bequests directed toward the care of the building from the estates of Kitty Donnelly and Don Mosher. The Vestry approved the Committee's recommendation to put the bequests in the Building Reserve Fund.
 - As of March 1, with these bequests, money from the Beams Fundraiser, and other donations, the Building Reserve Fund will have approximately \$338,000 intended for it. Parishioners will also be able to contribute to the Building Reserve Fund and we hope and plan to increase the church annual contribution to the Fund to meet the goal if possible.

- Pursuant to the Vestry's instructions of several years ago, and based on our accountants' recommendation, we have either changed how we accounted for monies held by our designated funds or we have spent the money as the donors directed: Middle East Working Group, Archives, Christian Education, and Historic Preservation Designated Funds. Future gifts with restrictions must be sent to our Parish Finance Administrator who will present them to the Treasurer for discussion first with the Finance Committee and then with the Vestry to determine acceptance. See updated guidance https://www.stmarks.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/St.MarksGiftAcceptancePolicy_updated_11_30_2021.pdf
- The Vestry approved the end of the Extended Vision Capital Campaign as of December 31, 2021. On February 22, 2022 the Vestry voted, according to the recommendation of the Outreach Board, to distribute the \$15,692.76 in the Extended Vision2020 surplus in equal measure to three separate projects:
 - Afghan Family Refugee Settlement Program,
 - the Partnership Between St. Mark's and St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Navajoland
 - the Building Bridges Across the River/The ARC donation.
 Any additional pledge payments parish members wish to contribute for Extended Vision will be conveyed to the Outreach Board for spending at their discretion.
- The Vestry modified the Gift Policy to remove potential administrative burden on the church staff.
- We resolved some liabilities for our copiers and former employee retirees.
- We received a "clean" audit from our auditors.
- The Treasurer began providing monthly financial reports to the Parish.
- The Committee is a key component of the new Stewardship Committee, along with the Endowment Board and Canvass, and also works with the new Personnel Committee.
- The Committee, with Vestry approval, invested some of our reserves in the higher return Vanguard Star Fund.

Goals for This Year:

- Create a culture of ongoing stewardship through greater transparency and engagement, including whether to propose broad stewardship goals.
- We are very pleased that the Stewardship Committee is back in place.
- Determine how to fund the Building Reserve Fund while funding the rest of church operations.
- Work with our new Parish Finance Administrator, Annick Milde, to continue to simplify and make transparent our financial operations.

2022 Operating Budget Report

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Pledge Units			
Total Pledge	\$ 902,071		\$ 890,000
Pledges	\$ 900,751	\$ 985,738	\$ 856,000
Internal Transfers (incl. 2022 prepaid pledges & 2021 expense savings)			\$ 119,791
Other Income	\$ 113,652	\$ 138,394	\$ 91,620
Bequest	\$ -	\$ 226,996	\$ -
Satellite Organizations	\$ 6,300	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,700
Other Donor-Restricted Revenue		\$ 2,000	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	\$ 1,020,703	\$ 1,354,928	\$ 1,069,111
Payroll and Related	\$ 619,206	\$ 552,166	\$ 631,173
Parochial Ministry	\$ 34,902	\$ 28,889	\$ 53,151
Ministry Outside	\$ 110,848	\$ 114,406	\$ 120,768
Administration	\$ 51,866	\$ 63,438	\$ 58,305
Property	\$ 189,750	\$ 165,074	\$ 197,200
Reserve Allocations	\$ 10,750	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
deposit to Building Reserve Fund		\$ 226,996	
transfer Internal Transfers fwd to 2022		\$ 119,791	
transfer to Endowment		\$ 25,000	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,017,322	\$ 1,305,760	\$ 1,070,597
Operating Budget Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 3,381	\$ 49,168	\$ (1,486)

CUMULATIVE SURPLUS / DEFICIT (END OF YEAR)

Cumulative Operating Surplus / (Deficit)**	\$ 231,052
Building Reserve	\$ 337,552
Sabbatical Reserve	\$ 30,000

** Does not include Donor-Restricted Accounts or Vestry-Restricted Reserves

MEMBERSHIP							
Year	Wedge units	Pledges/ Adults	Children/ pledging Members ¹	Visitors (incl. children)	Ave. Sunday attendance	Baptized Members ²	Communicants/ 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)
2104	331	483	103	135	269	+21/-2 =939	759 (582A/177Y)
2015	297	430	n/a	n/a	262	+31/-362 =608 ⁷	608 (377A/231Y)
2016	309	443	153	108	274	+13/-3 =618	618 (375A/243Y)
2017	326	463	103	106	279	+25/-7=635	635 (375A/260Y)
2018	331	477	123	155	284	+22/-6=651	651(371A/280Y)
2019	272	520	342	161	284	+26/-15=662	662(520A/142Y)
2020 ⁸	285	414	156	16	291	+20/-21+=570	570(414A+156Y)
2021	248	362	36	86	212	+21/16+575	570(441A+156Y)

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.

⁸ Reflects shut down of regular services re: COVID-19 pandemic

St. Mark's as the Pro-Cathedral, 1900

LITURGICAL SERVICES								
Year	Sunday	Weekday Thurs.	Private Eucharist	Marriages	Burials	Baptisms ⁹	Morning Prayer ¹⁰	Compline ¹⁰
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		
2019	153	57	6	3	8	n/a		
2020¹¹	92	12	3	3	2	3	1600 ¹²	300 ¹²
2021¹³	121	26	3	3	5	8	156 ¹⁴	60

⁸Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

⁹Statistics added in 2018

¹⁰Service added during shut-down re: Covid-19 (zoom); # of services not available; number reflects total attendance

¹¹Covid shut-down occurred March 12, 2020; numbers reflect lack of in-person services

¹²These number reflect total attendance over the course of months

¹³In-person services returned June, 2021

¹⁴Number of services; for average attendance; see Worship Report, p. 25.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP *Thia Hamilton, Chair; Andrew Stafford, Vestry; Pamela Blumgart, Chris Berendes, Members*

The primary work of this group involves the care and maintenance of the stmarks.net website. On a weekly basis, members of the team rotate responsibility for adding and updating events and announcements as communicated in the weekly service bulletins, announcements, the e-Gospel and the daily emails.

The Communications Working Group (CWG) is on-call throughout the year for assistance in adding or changing website information as events arise, leadership changes, and programs evolve. This work has been especially active during the time of the pandemic when the majority of business is being done virtually.

To support the work of the Regathering Committee, culminating in the start of in-person worship in June, 2021, we added a regathering-focused page and kept both in-person worship schedules and virtual (livestream and Zoom) access points up to date to track the changes required by public health requirements. We also refreshed many of the photographs of worship and other parish activities on the website to reflect the new realities, constraints, and joys of masked indoor worship, outdoor worship, and myriad activities via Zoom.

2021 was the first full year that the parish-wide email list, aka the "E-group" shifted from Yahoo to new software, Discourse. Approximately 110 parishioners participate, with about 35 posting messages or replies four or more times per year.

In the ten days prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting on March 14, 28 parishioners and one member of our clergy reached out to the 440 parishioners on the voter list one-to-one by phone or email. The effort was coordinated by Christoph Berendes via the new E-group email software and a few, frankly rickety Google spreadsheets. It was designed to contact especially those who had lost touch with St. Mark's during the pandemic, to invite them to the Annual Meeting, and to let them know serious planning for our safe, in-person regathering was well underway. In the informal debrief, contact team members reported that the people they reached were grateful to be called and urged that the effort start earlier in the cycle and be continued each year at least until the Annual Meeting returned to in-person only.

ENDOWMENT *David Wellman, Chair (Architect); Karen Wiedemann (Co-Chair), Michael Summey (Treasurer), Kim Bayliss, Malissa Zimmerman (Secretary)*

The Endowment was created by the Vestry in 2002. It provides a way for parishioners to contribute to the long-term needs of the Church through donations to several funds (listed below). These funds support projects within specific areas of church life including its buildings and grounds. The Endowment does not pay routine expenses or supplement the operating budget, which is supported primarily by annual pledges.

A five-member board, approved by the Vestry, manages the Endowment. Their responsibilities include establishing individual Endowment Funds, accepting gifts, bequests and donations, investing the funds in a diverse and balanced portfolio in order to achieve stable growth, and distributing the fund's earnings consistent with the Endowment and the individual fund charters.

Contributions and bequests are currently 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. During the year 2021, the fund had an annual return of 9.7%.

Each year the portion of each fund available for distributions ("expendable funds") is calculated based on 5% of the 3-year rolling average of the fund's valuation (as of December 31 of each year). If these expendable funds are not distributed in a given calendar year, they will accrue and are available for distribution in subsequent years. This method of disbursement computation is the most commonly used method in the non-profit world.

Description of Funds and 2021 Disbursements and Activities

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. This fund paid out \$9,440 for window repairs in 2021.

Hoitsma Fund: Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this fund provides for long-term building improvements not covered by the operating budget. There was no activity in this fund in 2021.

General Fund: This fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the church. There was no activity in this fund in 2021.

Verna Dozier Fund: Initially established 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. There was no activity in this fund in 2021.

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. There was no activity in this fund in 2021.

Arts Fund: This fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. There was no activity in this fund in 2021.

Holtkamp Organ Fund: Set up in 1998, this fund provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. The Music Director requests disbursements. There was no activity in this fund in 2021.

The Endowment charter also provides that the Endowment should set aside funds every year toward a periodic survey of the condition of the parish properties.

The Endowment Board has a new email address: Endowment@stmarks.net. If you have questions about any of the Endowment Funds, or you would like to make a contribution, please contact us at this address or contact one of the Board Members.

RACE AND RECONCILIATION *Inactive*

MEMBERSHIP *Inactive*

STEWARDSHIP *Linell Grundman, temporary chair*

CANVASS *Inactive*

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE *Brandon McKnight, Chair*

LEGACY LIONS *Kenn Allen, Coordinator*

We launched the Legacy Lions in 2017 as our planned giving program to recognize those parishioners who have made commitments to St Mark's in their estate planning. Since 2015, we have received 13 legacy gifts totaling \$1,532,050. These gifts have enabled us to replace the Lexan covering on the nave windows with tempered glass, develop the 3rd street garden (ed: formerly known as the "3rd Street Parking") and install permanent backing on the cherry tree panels in Baxter Hall as well as to retire our indebtedness from the major Vision 2020 and Extended Vision renovations. Legacy gifts were received in 2021 from Kitty Nicholson Donnelly and Don Mosher. The bequest from Kitty will be committed to improved lighting and an art hanging system in the nave with the balance to the Building Reserve Fund. Don's gift will go to the Building Reserve Fund. We are very grateful to those who have indicated that they have made advance plans for legacy gifts to the parish. For the list of members, please see p.45

DIOCESIAN DELEGATION *Raiford Gaffney, Tom Getman, Mary Neznok, Lay Delegation; The Rev. Michele Morgan, The Rev. Christopher Phillips, The Rev. Patricia Catalano, Clerical Delegates*

The annual Convention (January 29) opened with a presentation by Bishop Mariann Budde speaking of the need to widen membership to include younger adults and to support congregations with racial and ethnic minorities. Part of this effort will include an ongoing study of reparations in churches where there is a legacy of using the labor of enslaved people. The overarching theme was 'Jesus is here, and so are we' and the bishop's speech referenced "entering a third year of world-wide pandemic. As communities centered in Jesus, you have gone the extra mile to assist your neighbors, amid intense pressures of holding your own lives and families together; reckoning with our historic and ongoing complicity in racism, responding with generous compassion to the Afghan refugees arriving into our region, learning new skills to connect to one another."

Six resolutions were passed and will be reviewed and evaluated before being submitted to the June 2022 General Convention in Baltimore (delegates elected to represent each diocese.) It is an indirect process but the strong vote of more than 70% of our delegates is an important indicator of sentiment:

1. Christ Church+Accokeek be amicably separated from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.
2. The inclusion of Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in Lesser Feasts and Fasts and the calendar of the Episcopal Church; authorizes trial use of the proper for the triennial 2023-2024 to be celebrated on March 13. (These are feast days for various men and women the church wishes to honor. Bishop Harris [1930-2020] was the first woman ordained a bishop in the Anglican Communion.)
3. The creation of a task force on Black ministries: to strengthen those congregations and including recommendations for strategic revitalization. NOTE: There has been ongoing archival research into the role of enslaved people in the history of congregations in the Diocese.
4. Rejecting the theology of Christian Zionism as a modern misinterpretation of the scriptures, it having no connection to the Creeds or the Prayer Book; and that the Convention condemns the political policy positions promoted by such a theology. (Tom Getman and Mary Neznok, co-sponsors among others in the diocese.)
5. Recognizing Israel's discriminatory legal system and treatment of Palestinians corresponds to the definition of apartheid elaborated in the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and set out in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; and that the General Convention condemn Israel's apartheid system as antithetical to the Gospel message...recognizing the complicity of US government in supporting and protecting Israel in its apartheid practices against Palestinians, deeming that support is antithetical to America's fundamental values and calls on the President and US

Congress to condemn and oppose Israeli's apartheid by all appropriate means, replacing economic aid to Israel with economic aid to the Palestinians. (Lead Sponsor, Thomas Getman, co-sponsors Mary Neznec and delegates from four congregations.)

6. Resolution: Recognizing the right to boycott as a nonviolent means to confront human rights abuses and calls on the President of the United States and the US Congress to oppose legislation criminalizing support for nonviolent boycotts, divestment or sanctions on behalf of Palestinian human rights as a defense of the First Amendment right to speak and act nonviolently. (Tom Getman, Mary Neznec, co-sponsors)

ADVISORY COMMITTEES *Betsy Athey, Convener*

Advisory Committees have assisted our Clergy, Wardens, Seminarians, and Staff since 1975. They are composed of a lay Convener and usually, +/- 7 parishioners who represent a microcosm of our community, are connected to parish life, and serve generally a 2-year term. These committees 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.

Rector:

Assistant Rector: Greg Niblett, convener

Senior Warden: Susan Thompson, convener

Junior Warden: Fabric Committee

Seminarian: Rita Ossolinski, convener

Youth & Family Ministries:

If you are interested in being considered for an Advisory Committee, contact the Chair at atheylloyd@comcast.net.

ELDERS *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, Conveners*

The Elders include all former Wardens and Directors of Christian Education. They meet upon the request of the wardens, co-directors, clergy, or other parish leaders. An annual dinner for Elders and spouses is held in the spring. There are currently 54 Elders living in the area and active. Nationwide, 66 Elders remain in contact.

In April 2021, our new Sr. Warden, Linell Grundman, called for a meeting with the (local) Elders. 38 Elders met with Linell over ZOOM on three dates. It was really great to see and be with each other after our Covid separation! It was also encouraging to witness again that "When the Elders are asked to gather - we show up! "

In 2020, due to Covid, our Annual Dinner had to be canceled. But in June 2021, after receiving our vaccinations and due to a perceived drop in the virus, we joyfully resurrected our Annual Dinner with 30 Elders and spouses attending, enjoying our reunion, dining both inside and outside. We celebrated the 2 years of service of SW Ryan Baugh, JW Jim Pittman, and Co-Directors Susan Thompson and Greg Niblett for jobs well done, especially in the difficult time of the Covid Pandemic. They were ceremoniously Inducted (and Susan re-inducted) into the august ranks of the Elders. In addition, we cheered the novel commitment of both JW Jim Pittman and Co-D Greg Niblett to serve an additional (3rd) year in their leadership positions.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

RE-OPENING/RE-GATHERING *Karen Wiedemann, Chair; Kit Arrington, Mike Dillman, Linell Grundman, JoEllen Hayden, Josie Jordan, John Anthony Meza, Joel Wilson, Ryan Baugh (Senior Warden), Jim Pitman (Junior Warden), George Meng (Risk Management Advisor), James Rostron (Parish Administrator), Michele Morgan, Rector, members*

In 2021, the committee led the re-opening of in-person worship.

February 2021, the committee analyzed the results of the parish regathering survey and started to develop plans for re-opening. In March, we led a rector's forum that reported on the results of the survey, presented a draft reopening plan, and gathered feedback on the plan from parishioner breakout groups. Following revisions, in April the final plan was approved by the Vestry and the Diocese, and the committee began work to finalize the details of reopening procedures, develop parish communications and website updates, and gather and train volunteers.

We re-opened for in-person worship at the beginning of June.

Following re-opening, the committee continued to monitor changes in COVID risks and public health guidance with a view to simplifying and relaxing restrictions where possible. Over time, many of the initial regathering procedures (such as pre-registration) were phased out or relaxed.

RECTOR'S SABBATICAL *Kenn Allen, Louise Walsh, Co-Chairs; Charmian Crawford, Nancy Lucas, John-Anthony Meza, members*

The purpose of the Committee is to support the Rector, Senior Warden, Vestry, and senior parish program leaders to plan and realize a successful 4-month sabbatical period for the 12th rector, Rev. Michele Morgan, and for the parish. The committee was appointed jointly by the Rector and Senior Warden, Linell Grundman. It is also charged with producing a Sabbatical Plan and Sabbatical Calendar after interviewing the staff, clergy, Vestry members (if requested), and leaders of parish groups and programs about what specific support they need during the sabbatical. Meetings with parishioners to answer questions and address concerns took place at Rector Forums in January when the Rector formally commissioned the committee.

Building a list of guest preachers with input from the parish and clergy is underway. In-person and on-line announcements of interest will continue before and during the sabbatical period. A dedicated space on the website for sabbatical news is being created. An email address enabling parishioners to contact the committee with related questions was set up in February 2022. Both co-chairs regularly update the Vestry on their work. After the Rector returns to the pulpit in September, the committee will make a final report to the Senior Warden and will be decommissioned.

Michele will visit: Minneapolis & New Orleans (US); Toronto, Red Deer, Cape Breton (Canada), Haida Gwaii (Br. Columbia)

REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP *Doris Burton*, Convener; Treasurer *Stephanie Deutsch*; Laying on of Hands *open*; Livestream *David Deutsch, Charlie Rupp*; Head Verger *Josie Jordan*; Acolytes *Doris Burton (11:15)*; Co-Sacristans *Susan Ryerson, Doris Burton*; Ushers *open*; Bread & Wine *Joe Tarantolo (9), open (11:15)*; Chalice Bearers *Karen Getman (9), inactive*; Readers Guild *Ellen Spencer, Susan Sevier, Jim Steed, Josie Jordan, Doris Burton, Maureen Shea (over the course of the year, leadership changed)*; Morning Prayer coordinators *Chris Berendes & Elin Whitney-Smith, Compline Caitlin Frazier*

The Worship Committee, one of the long-standing lay programs, mourns the loss of member and co-Chair, Jim Steed. Jim was involved in this committee for most of his 50 years in our parish. His knowledge of church history and tradition was an enormous source for the committee's work and he is sorely missed.

From March 2020 until June 2021, the services were remote and broadcast on Facebook. They were planned solely by clergy and staff due to the pandemic. After in-person services resumed in the summer of 2021, the Worship Committee needed to re-group and determine how to move forward. From September through Christmas, the co-chairs, clergy and a very few parishioners planned the services. With the onset of the Omicron variant in November, distribution of bread (wafers) was suspended. Due to the pandemic, there was no activity by chalice bearers or laying-on-of-hands.

2021

Late Pentecost was structured primarily by clergy and staff as the chair, co-chair and only 2 parishioners participated.

Advent/Christmas: We chose to use the Book of Common Prayer for Advent. Since this was rarely done, we included notes in the bulletin for visitors and newcomers who might be unfamiliar with this historical resource. Returning to the BCP felt a good choice for this period. Once again, we installed a large tree (about 12') in the courtyard for Advent II and lit the tree following the Advent Lessons & Carols. Attendees went into the garden for the lighting and sang "O Christmas Tree" to complete the event. This is the 2nd year we have done this, as much for the community as for us. But...once again, we had wind issues and the tree did not quite make it thru the season, upright. We hope to do this again and invite anyone with anchoring skills to offer their assistance.

Decorations were, once again, simple (see Arts Council report for additional information).

Christmas Eve: Both services were in-person with the Family Service having a combination of live/recorded nativity play. The Festival Service began with the traditional congregational caroling but had some last-minute adjusting as several participants had late positive Covid tests ruling out their presence.

Christmas I and II: These services and those for *Epiphany* were planned by clergy.

Epiphany: The eighth-week season was marked with a sermon series: *Adding Voices: Acts of Radical Love that Change the World (Grief in the Face of Change)*. For January, the topic, 'In Times of Pandemic' was examined thru the 1918-20 so-called Spanish Flu, the Martyrs of Memphis, the Lepers of Molokai, Hawai'i, and the AIDS epidemic. February sermons focused on African-American Theologians Howard Thurman, James Cone, Verna Dozier, and Kelly Brown-Douglas.

Altar Guild *Doris Burton, Susan Ryerson, Coordinators* The Guild is composed of volunteers who set and clear the altar as well as caring for our liturgical equipment. Since reopening, wine has not been distributed and wafers still used; then even wafers were omitted as Omicron emerged, all of this making our work very light. Because of that, the usual teams of two, were reduced to one person per service: we have 7 members for the 9 am service and 8 members for 11:15. Because of the pandemic, most wedding/funeral/memorial services have been postponed until larger gatherings feel safe.

More brass items have been repaired/polished/re-lacquered which will significantly lighten our polishing responsibilities: most of this year's Worship budget was spent on this work. The only major pieces still needing work are the two late 19thc floor candelabra.

A member designed and fabricated offering plate liners (easier for ushers to close) and cloth bags for the offering eliminated our need to use paper bags.

In December, Dr. Bertha Martin, the most-senior member, announced her retirement from the Guild. Because she was responsible for organizing the guild when the only two members (the Trusheim sisters) retired, we held a special luncheon and, with the approval of the Vestry, unanimously voted to name the sacristy in her honor and named her *emerita*. A plaque was ordered to be installed on the wall outside the sacristy.

Vergers *Josie Jordan, Head Verger* From March to November 2020, vergers did not participate in on-line Sunday services in an effort to keep the number of worship and production participants below 10. Beginning in November, Head Verger, Josie Jordan, served on Sundays, functioning as Altar Guild and Verger. The goal was to make the production of the online service as smooth as possible for the clergy and production team. In late 2020, two very small, socially distanced funerals were held, supported by a verger.

On June 6, 2021, the church opened for in-person services at 10 am and the verger corps began serving once again. Over the course of the summer, we returned to our usual three Sunday services with Josie Jordan, David Deutsch, Raiford Gaffney, Michael Knipe, Jan Lipscomb, Martha Huizenga, Jennifer Cate, and Michele Rivard serving in rotation. We also helped plan and serve at four funerals.

A highlight was helping to plan the first ordination service held on-site (generally at the cathedral). Rev. Christopher Phillips was ordained by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde on October 30, 2021. We served as vergers and ushers to Chris' family.

Livestream Crew *Charlie Rupp, David Deutsch* David and Charlie created our system providing more professional broadcast services. Jeff Kempksie started the work at the beginning of the Covid crisis which provided a significant and essential head start in the development of the current system.

Since livestreaming began in March 2020, it has settled down to a gently flowing river with occasional rapids and shoals. A major improvement came August 29, 2021 when the 11:15am service was live-streamed using three point-tilt-zoom cameras (PTZ) controlled by a system called vMIX. This provided a hugely upgraded picture quality and more camera angles of both nave & choir coverage. PTZ cameras and vMIX provide huge promises for the live-stream, but the cost is a learning curve to harness the technology. The live-stream team has had to make huge strides in learning the new technology to make the live-streaming smooth sailing. Technical director Charlie Rupp and video director David Deutsch have enjoyed the challenge of working together to produce a "professional" experience for those watching at home. That team has relied on and much appreciates the technical assistance of David Wellman & Chris Berendes. Elin Whitney-Smith also gave her time/talent to learn directing skills so she can be at the helm as needed.

Coda: The new equipment has also been put to excellent use for live-streaming *ad hoc* events such as the Faure *Requiem* (directed by Elin Whitney-Smith with technical assistance from Chris Berendes) and the Rector's Forum (Michele's sabbatical). As of the date of this report, we will continue broadcasting the 11:15 Sunday Service on a routine basis. Broadcasts of memorials, weddings, etc. have been and will be done as requested.

To add variety and to display diverse groups, Elin Whitney-Smith and Christoph Berendes recorded seven parish groups reading prayers of the people, for inclusion in the livestream worship in the late winter/spring. Parishioners in the Wednesday Bible Class, Incarceration Justice Ministry, the Washington Interfaith Network, Centering Prayer, Lamba Lions, and the Guild for Transformational Studies all read beautifully, but the *ad hoc* group of five families, each with one or two parents and one and sometimes two primary school-age children captured hearts in the parish and, indeed, Bishop Mariann's as well - and were the only group to have their recording shown on two separate Sundays.

Readers Guild Initially led by Ellen Spencer, was taken over by Jeff Kempksie then Susan Sevier for the summer through Pentecost. Jim Steed scheduled Advent and, after his death, Doris Burton and Josie Jordan scheduled readers until new coordinators could be found. Maureen Shea took over the 9am readers as of February 1 and Andrew Stafford agreed to schedule for 11:15 after his Vestry term ends. All the coordinators worked to expand the number of parishioners involved.

Acolytes Because so few children were vaccinated, the 9am corps remains non-existent. For several Sundays in the fall, Seminarian Joel Martinez assumed the role. Shay Waye is working to re-build but we do not expect to have child acolytes until Fall. Michael Knipe resigned as 11am coordinator to participate in Sunday school so Doris Burton assumed the role of scheduler. The 11am corps has expanded to 7 adults enabling us to occasionally have torches and, for Christmas Eve, a thurifer! We hope to expand both groups over the course of the coming year. One new addition this year was a needlepoint Epiphany star to be carried in the processional. Fabricated by Doris Burton, it was processed by a child throughout the season.

Morning Prayer *Elin Whitney-Smith, Chris Berendes, co-conveners*

Morning Prayer continues Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11am, with an average attendance of 8 and 156 services. Participants have joined from Seattle, San Diego, Sarasota FL, and Dubai among other spots. On July 31, we took Morning Prayer on the road to see the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in Church Creek, MD. From time to time, we rotate hosts, allowing the convenors time with family away from screens.

Compline *Caitlin Frazier, coordinator* We continued hosting Compline on Facebook Live as a way of gathering virtually during the pandemic. Compline is the last of the four services in the Daily Office, a descendent of monastic night prayers. It provides a quiet time in the evening to reflect and offer the worries of the day to God. Compline leaders included Caitlin Frazier, Rev. Joe Hubbard, Caleb Nelson Amaker, Loretta Veney, Karen Wiedemann, and Ryan Baugh. In addition to a regular group of members who gathered, we also welcomed newcomers, many of whom do not live in the DMV region. (ed. Caitlin has left St. Mark's and attending seminary in Austin, TX)

In May 2021, the Compline leaders gathered with Rev. Morgan to assess the future of the program. We decided that, in light of widely available vaccinations and the church's plan to regather in person, our last Compline service would be held on May 27th, 2021. After that date Compline went on hiatus with the potential to bring it back if and when the interest arose.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Karen Falk, Keith Krueger, Greg Niblett, Co-Directors*

Introduction: Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. Renew. While the Covid pandemic continued to present challenges for our faith community, our program continued to mount a successful roster of classes, virtually and in person. For the spring semester last year, February to May, adult and Sunday school classes continued to meet by zoom with some adult classes meeting during the summer. In September, Sunday School resumed meeting in person with full teaching teams at every level and with the regular weekly ebb and flow of attendance in person. However, we had more than 35 children register for Sunday school and the first day was extremely well attended. We decided to suspend the senior high class after December given the lack of attendance and we will examine the demand for this class with parents as we move forward. Most adult classes met by zoom which is proving to be a positive approach to classes. We expect that virtual technology will allow us to have an even more robust program when life returns to normal with some classes opting for zoom, some for in-person, and some for hybrid (zoom and in-person) gatherings. As we rolled into September of this year, we felt like we were beginning the process of returning to our community, re-examining our lives, reconnecting with each other, and also beginning the process of renewing our spirits. Omicron interrupted our momentum but did not stop our march forward.

Program Category Summary Our program is divided into the following areas:

- Sunday school for pre-school through grade 12
- Adult classes/offerings consisting of the following:
 - o Issues-based experiential classes
 - o Pop-up classes (classes that spontaneously arise after the publication of the catalog)
 - o Bible studies (Adult Sunday school and through the week classes)
 - o Meditation & Centering Prayer

Philosophy Our 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 and experience of our parishioners. Primarily, our program strives to be a “big umbrella” program that includes various courses and instructional methodologies that appeal to the different interests of the members of the parish. A key cornerstone of the program is to create community. By taking classes, exploring the deeper issues of our lives, and engaging in discussions, parishioners have the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and form life-long relationships with other parishioners.

Sunday School We strive to create an experience following a unified arc, providing both broad coverage of basic Christian lore and providing guidance so young people can develop and explore their value systems and spiritual growth. In both our Catechesis program (a Montessori approach to spiritual development, for pre-school through grade 5) and our middle/high school ‘Teen Text’ curricula, we place emphasis on ‘asking questions’ rather than providing answers –

questions that elicit values-based responses for age-appropriate issues. During the reporting period, *Catechesis I, II* and *III* for grades 3-10 met in-person as did the middle school class. The senior high class met sporadically from September through December and was temporarily suspended due to lack of attendance.

Catechesis I (ages 3 to kindergarten)

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

Focus: Love: Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Teacher: Sally McElrath; Assistant: Kathryn Powers

Catechesis II (grades 1-3)

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

Focus: Right and Wrong: Parable of the True Vine

Teacher: Suzanne Wells; Assistant: Michael Knipe

Catechesis III (grades 4-5)

Theme: . . . as part of God's community

Focus: Responsibility: Maxims, 10 Commandments

Teachers: Stephanie Deutsch and David Trissell; Substitute: Paul Albergo

Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12)

This was the third year that we continued using a new curriculum entitled "Teen Text". This is an issues-based experiential curriculum that follows the Episcopal liturgical calendar with scriptures used weekly from the Book of Common Prayer. Different "Teen Text" curricula are tailored to middle school and high school ages. The curriculum is a product of The Educational Center, an independent organization rooted in the Episcopalian tradition. This is our third year using the curriculum and it has been well received.

Middle School Teachers: Melanie Hansen, Jeb Ory, and Lisa Ramish

Senior High School Teachers: Logan Clark, Kevin Flood, and Doug Padgett

Adult Classes: February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022 the following courses were offered:

- *Episcopalians 101:* This short course is offered once or twice a year to provide newcomers or regular parish congregants and members an opportunity to better understand the history, theology, and sacraments of the Episcopal Church. *Leader: Rev. Michele Morgan*
- *Sacred Ground Dialogue:* The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series is part of the *Becoming Beloved Community* initiative of The Episcopal Church, a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is built around powerful documentary films and readings, which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue. The curriculum covers various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness, focusing on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories. *Leader: Rev. Patricia Catalano*
- *The Challenge of Forgiveness:* As Christians, seekers, and skeptics seeking to live well, we know that forgiveness is essential to living healthy and healing lives. Yet forgiveness does not always come easily. The class explored the reasons to—and the challenges and promise of—forgiving through the reading of Desmond & Mpho Tutu's The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World as a guide. *Leader: Rev. Michele Morgan*
- *Adult Discussion Groups 20s/30s:* This year the 20s/30s Faith Fellowship held virtual discussions on a variety of topics with attendance anywhere from 3 to 10 individuals.
- *Pastoral Care: Meeting the Needs of Each Other in Community:* Most churches, including St. Mark's, have valued traditions of pastoral care whereby members of the faith community are sustained by others in times of difficulty, immediate need, or illness. Compassionate outreach from others can often be a source of healing and encouragement. We often think of pastoral care as only the province of the clergy but increasingly the laity volunteers to extend the reach of pastoral care beyond what the clergy can do alone. This six-session course explored

how parishioners can be part of the pastoral care process and also delve more deeply into who we want to be as a community that values and nurtures pastoral care. *Leader: The Rev. Cindy Dopp, Deacon*

- **KINTSUGI: *Finding Beauty and Meaning in Our Brokenness Using Expressive Writing*:** Hundreds of years ago, Japanese artisans developed a method for mending shattered pottery known as kintsugi, in which broken porcelain shards are brought together into wholeness using gold to fill the seams. During this five-week class, participants wrote down and shared stories of what was broken over the last year, the gold they found to mend, and how they used that gold to bring their brokenness into new meaning and beauty. *Leaders: Susan Thompson and Sandy Padgett*
- ***How Much of Our Faith Do We Bring to Our Work?*** Join in a conversation with noted author and award-winning journalist and parishioner Elizabeth Becker, as she explores how faith shapes her work. In her first book, *When the War Was Over*, she explored the Khmer Rouge revolution. After reading the book, a friend, a committed Evangelical Christian told her she had written a book of witness – Christian witness. She responded that she had no such intention. Her friend responded, “even better.” Her new book, *You Don’t Belong Here*, tells the history of three female war correspondents who covered the Vietnam War and shaped history. As Americans, especially those of us in Washington, D.C., we are defined by our work. Becker shared how faith has shaped her career by examining war through the lenses of naivete, grace and human cost. Join us and share your faith journey. *Leader: Elizabeth Becker*

Bible Studies, Meditation, and Centering Prayer (on-going)

- ***Sunday Morning Bible Study*** (Zoom, February to June 2021) and has been temporarily put on hold while we look for a new teaching team. This class was highly successful for more than 35 years under the leadership of Buzz March and then Bob Ewald; we’re hoping we can continue the tradition. *Leader: Bob Ewald (February to June 2021)*
- ***Wednesday Bible Study*** (Zoom, February to May 2021), resumed on Zoom September 2021 through February 2022, and will continue to meet through May of 2022. *Leader: Peter Moseley; Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney*
- ***Centering Prayer*** Prior to the pandemic, this drop-in offering was held Thursday mornings at 7:30 am. It now meets on Zoom every morning at 8:00 am. These sessions provide parishioners with the opportunity to better understand and practice centering prayer – a silent and contemplative practice designed to deepen our connection to the Divine and to discuss relevant readings. *Leader: Rev. Patricia Catalano*

Baptism Course for Parents: This course was offered twice in the past year to prepare parents for the sacrament of baptism for their children *Leaders: John Edwards, Kris Humphries, and Steve & Jennifer Dalzell*

St. Mark’s Meditation Center (SMMC) Michele Rivard SMMC continued to offer vipassana (insight) meditation with 17 to 20 people on Monday evenings. Based on Theravada Buddhism, we delve into different Buddhist, mindfulness, and laity practices. The community, or “sangha,” is peer-led and open to all, regulars and drop-ins alike. Together, we engage in silent meditation, a dharma talk, discussion, and a closing metta, wishing loving-kindness to all beings. Over 200 people read our weekly newsletter; the mailing list tops 400.

From July to mid-December, we met on a hybrid basis, with 6 to 10 sangha members in person in Baxter Hall, and the remaining connecting over Zoom from the comfort of their homes or travels near and far. We gained 8 new members, who appreciated the ability to meet in person. Otherwise, we have been remote.

Examples of our explorations included:

Art: Angie Cecil, Harvard Master of Divinity student and former parishioner, led us in 4 sessions of Visio Divina: meditative seeing, introducing artists new to many of us and the practice of intentional seeing to “reimagine justice” and how marginalized people are seen.

Hope: Duane Bidwell, California-based professor, clinician, and author, shared his research on children living with terminal diseases, and the joy and positivity they embody and share with others.

Sound: Lawrence Dsouza, Sangha member, led us in 3 sessions with singing bowls and sound bath meditation, utilizing his training in India prior to the pandemic to showcase relationships among body, mind, and vibrations.

Awakening: Founder Collie Agle conceptualized with fellow teacher and Sangha leader Patrick Hamilton the 7-week theme of awakening. This resulted from Collie's awakening experience from a serious health episode and understanding awakening in the context of one's spiritual path. We delved into interdependence and emptiness as real-life experiences transcending the everyday meaning of life and death, and how awakening is supported and enhanced by our practice of mindfulness.

In late December, we lost our friend and founder (Collie), as his physical body breathed its last. In 2022, we continued his legacy, learning, and caring for one another and the Earth. He encouraged many of us: in our mindfulness journeys, learning, and leadership. We continue this and have adopted a regular format each month of longer, contemplative meditation (week 1), peer-led/practical learning (week 2), community check-in and events that are impacting us (week 3), and the dharma: formal teachings and doctrine of the Buddha (week 4). We created monthly themes, and started in February with JOY.

Indra's Net, a metaphor illustrating interrelationship in Buddhism.

In Collie's words and actions, each of us is a jewel in the net, connected to and impacting everyone else.

OUTREACH Julie Murphy, Co-Chair, vacancy

Board Members: Susan Sedgewick, Linda Staheli, Leslie Allen, Laura Beres, Jan Lipscomb, Steve Dalzell, Andrew Schmidt, Margie Ware, Martha Larkin, Edna Boone (Vestry Liaison)

Affiliated Clergy/Staff: The Rev. Christopher Phillips

Mission: 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. The efforts of the Board principally take the forms of stewardship over those funds appropriated by the Vestry to care for others, liaising with and vetting organizations poised to deliver that care, and supporting and amplifying service and social justice efforts brought to the Board by the congregation.

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

Meetings: Third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., monthly, unless shifted due to holidays or other conflicts. Members address ongoing issues regarding various programs and program status, evaluate funding requests, and requests for new program and event support. For more information: See the "Service and Justice" page on our website (<https://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/>) or contact the Outreach Co-Director at outreach@stmarks.net

Funded Programs from the Annual Budget (total per entity in parentheses)

Salvation Army Grate Patrol (\$1600): This program brings an evening meal to homeless neighbors 365 nights a year and serves more than 3,000 people each month. In normal times, volunteers, primarily parents and children, make sandwiches and bag meals on the 4th Sunday of every month. Under COVID, instead of reimbursing the month's coordinator for the cost of ingredients and supplies, we have sent direct contributions to the Salvation Army site to offset their costs. Beginning in January 2022, we are back to making lunches as a community and both parents and children were very much engaged.

Everyone Home DC (Formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry) (\$15,000 plus \$1,200 for school supplies): Our institutional funding and the continuing generosity of individual parishioners combined with that from other faith institutions and the community ensure the needs of our most vulnerable residents can be at the center of a just recovery. In the last year, Everyone Home DC continued to provide urgent and critical resources to individuals and almost 800 families through its family housing and family homelessness prevention programs.

- Former Senior Warden Ryan Baugh continued our five-decade commitment to their mission by serving on the Everyone Home Board.

- Everyone Home DC's Street Outreach team continues to perform COVID-19 health checks with those living on Capitol Hill streets and at Union Station. They distributed undergarments, body wipes, hand sanitizer, and other items essential to the health and safety of those with no place to shower or wash their hands and ensured that everyone had enough to eat. The Street Outreach Team worked with 242 individuals through 1551 face-to-face engagements. 17 individuals sleeping outside have been matched with housing and 2 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have moved into housing. The volunteer HART program augmenting the staff visits to those living on the street continued to be on pause.
- Shirley' Place Day Hospitality Center is still operating on reduced hours due to the pandemic. Shirley's Place provides access to showers, laundry, restrooms, mail service, phones, computers, lunch in partnership with DC Central Kitchen, and social service referrals. Open four days a week, the case managers recorded 673 guests visit for services, supplies, and meal pick up.
- Parishioners responded to the shift from the traditional in-kind donation drives for back-to-school supplies, Thanksgiving dinners, and holiday gift-giving to funding store gift cards. Everyone Home DC reported these gift cards empowered their families to make their own choices. Tracking the exact number of St Mark's participants proved less feasible than in previous years.
- Parishioners supported Everyone Home DC throughout the year by making over 60 donations that were identifiable as coming from that connection. In addition to the back-to-school drive, Thanksgiving, and Holiday gift card drives, parishioners supported the work of Everyone Home DC by contributing its September Challenge event and its on-line auction, and through direct donations.
- Everyone Home DC's volunteer program, which includes HART, continues to be on pause. Everyone Home DC is exploring ways to re-introduce volunteer opportunities in the year ahead.

Sustainable Villages Honduras (\$2000): The Outreach Committee has supported the non-profit Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH) since its launch in April 2017 and dozens of individual members of have also been very generous. The year 2021 has been a particularly challenging year in the eight mountain villages in the municipality of Chinda in the department of Santa Barbara. Two hurricanes in November 2020 destroyed a bridge that links these villages to markets for their products and supplies from the town of Trinidad. Travel across the River Ulua has been in small boats or over another bridge that adds 30 minutes to the trip of any vehicle. Of seven houses that were destroyed by the hurricanes, five have been rebuilt with funding from SVH under the leadership of Roy Lara, SVH coordinator. Blocked roads and broken water pipes have also been repaired. Village leaders also managed to make good progress on long-range SVH projects. There are now six Centers of Investigation of Agro-Ecology practices that support farmers who experiment with seeds for crops that can better resist drought and diseases that have intensified due to climate change in Central America. Water boards in each of the eight villages have strengthened their organization and made progress in improving local water systems.

Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) (\$3000) - Core team: Kit Arrington, Edna Boone, Josie Jordan, Steve Dalzell, Chris Berendes, Betsy Agle. During our first year as dues paying members of WIN, we enthusiastically embraced being part of a city-wide community of over 40 primarily faith-based institutions building relationships with individuals to work on issues of equity and justice that include Affordable Housing; Living Wage Jobs; the Environment; and Public Housing maintenance and renovation accountability. The WIN Realm-group mailing list is now 63 and we have become dependable participants when it is important for folks to show up with WIN at public hearings, topical meetings and at WIN Actions - when numbers count to display power promoting important issues! Through participation in education and action opportunities, we learned about how to improve Public Safety through community support; the public health crisis from the environmental threat of methane gas; best practices for Federal Funding (RAD) to renovate maintenance-neglected public housing; and how to support Black Equity Through Home ownership in DC. What does WIN Action look like at St. Mark's?

Success! Affordable Housing on Public Lands - Reservation 13* Action (11 of *67 available acres of city-owned land on the river between RFK Stadium and the DC Jail)

Six participants from the previous year's training on Public Lands and Affordable Housing became leaders planning WIN's hugely successful "1/3 - 1/3 - 1/3" issue-raising April action onsite and on online (328 turnout - 10% St. Mark's!) In May, we

were 30 of 400+ WIN members attending the Developers' Proposals Presentation to again demand 1/3 deeply affordable (grocery clerks); 1/3 middle income (teachers, first responders); 1/3 market rate units plus home ownership opportunities resulting in the City REJECTING all of the initial offers and requiring reworks! In November, DC announced two proposal selections with a "unit mix...closer to the recommendations from the Washington Interfaith Network, which has long advocated for one-third of each product type to be the standard for a mixed-income community at Hill East." 11/2/21 Wash. Bus. Journal. In 2,300 units: 760 will be deeply affordable and 690 will be middle class!

Ward 3 Next! - A January affordable housing WIN Action in Ward 3 resulting in commitments of support from guest Councilmember Cheh for WIN agenda items had 19 parishioners registered of the 450+ total.

We're in relationship and working closely with residents of the Potomac Gardens Senior Housing (13th & G SE) to help them to advocate for their maintenance needs and to understand and advocate for their rights (e.g., "build first" and "right to return") during renovation planning.

After 20 months banned from gathering and the sadness from loss of vulnerable members of their community, residents of the Potomac Gardens Seniors Building wrote and performed a Christmas Play - with our acolyte vestments to the rescue for the angels when children's-sized costumes arrived in the mail!

In February 2022 our WIN leaders organized a meeting connecting the 9 Ward 6 member churches to learn and support each other in our respective areas of concern and to build energy around common issues. We're in preliminary stages of building a coordinated strategy with DC Episcopal churches to support WIN's major spring event promoting a WIN Agenda during the upcoming DC elections. Regular emails, occasional update meetings, and the Website keep the parish informed of actions and opportunities! We are renewing membership in WIN in 2022. (\$5,000) <http://www.stmarks.net/win/> and win@stmarks.net

Gun Violence Prevention (\$0) The members of our GVP group have supported events in partnership with the non-profits, including The Newtown Alliance and Newtown Foundation, Swords to Plowshares, Urban Rural Action, the DC chapter of Moms Demand Action, among others, as well as regularly hosting the annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence. In December, 2021, the Vigil was held online with a small in-person presence. We are currently seeking new partnership opportunities to fill out our efforts. With December, 2022 marking the 10-year anniversary of the Newtown tragedy, we hope to have a huge presence at this event.

Good Neighbor Capitol Hill Refugee Resettlement Ministry (\$3550): GNCH is now focused entirely on Setting up Apartments for newly arriving families in cooperation with Lutheran Social Services. GNCH core leadership team made the decision to eliminate all tutorial and employment mentoring programs. A few tutors have re- connected with their families and are maintaining independent relationships. Employment mentoring was totally cancelled because no one in the leadership team wanted to manage that program, especially during Covid.

GNCH set up only 7 apartments for new arrivals in the DMV area, January-August of 2021. But, after the fall of Kabul and the emergency evacuations, that number began to rise significantly as families began to leave the temporary shelter at military bases. During the last four months of 2021, GNCH received more than 200 messages from individuals responding to our website and offering GIK and volunteer efforts. The need for apartment set-ups more than doubled with 17 apartments in four months, which brings the total number to 77 apartments in four years. Karen Getman manages the GNCH website and became acutely aware of the need for mentor relationships with the families and the many people willing to assist.

The GNCH Furnishing Team continues to rely on donations of GIK (gifts in kind) and funds from the coalition of churches and individuals for needed supplies to furnish the apartments. Most Afghan families have a minimum of 4 – 12 family members. This requires furnishings, bedding, kitchen supplies, and fresh food and staples and toiletries. Outreach gave \$1000 and also sponsored a Toiletry Drive in July 2021 Through the generosity of our own congregation and many other community donors, we received toiletries to fill bags for 25 families.

Food Security during 2021 was a major concern as many families were reticent about vaccinations for the adults and children were unable to receive vaccinations until much later in the year. These factors made employment a major

concern and most heads of household were either unemployed or under employed and vulnerable to COVID. Through the generosity of individuals and donations from many of our congregations, GNCH was able to again provide \$200 gift cards, which were distributed to more than 125 families in at the end of Ramadan and again in December. We had received significant donations so we passed those along to the most vulnerable.

Previously, families arrived with a great deal of luggage containing personal clothing and other items. However, the recent evacuees were forced to abandon nearly all they had carried to the airport and were allowed only a backpack at most. The newer Afghan allies have needed many more personal supplies than previous families. The resettlement agencies are overwhelmed, but many volunteers and generous donors are recognizing this need and finding ways of providing assistance.

Our Afghan Neighbors: At the urging of Bishop Marian Budde and our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, members of our congregation formed a **Refugee Steering Committee (RSC)** during the last quarter of 2021. This group, under the umbrella of Outreach, is receiving volunteers and donations. RSC will work as a mentoring organization in partnership with Lutheran Social Services. Our work extends the reach of GNCH. We will operate independently and we will use a Temporary Restricted Refugee Fund with oversight by the Refugee Steering Committee (RSC) and Outreach. GNCH will lead in preparing an apartment, once our family is assigned to us, but RSC volunteers will take over the role of friends and mentors to the Afghan family as they navigate a new life in the US. Outreach gave a gift of \$2550 at the end of 2021 to the RSC Emergency Assistance Fund for Refugees, which we have used to buy gift cards for early assistance to our Afghan family. We are pleased to now extend our refugee commitment with a new level of more personal commitment through a mentoring relationship.

Members of RSC: *Kenn Allen, Kim Bayliss, Laura Beres, Lucy Brown, Gwen Dillard, Karen Getman, Cecilie Jones, Chris Phillips, Maureen Shea, Agatha Schmaedick Tan.*

The Mid East Working Group Members: *Jennifer Cate, Chris Herman, Karen Getman, Mary Nezneke, Mandy Paust, and Maureen Shea* **MEWG** was able to do some important work despite the pandemic:

- **Afghan Refugees:** This work, begun under MEWG, is now a separate entity under the auspices of the Outreach Board. Recognizing that there is broad engagement at St. Mark's with the refugee effort, we asked the Outreach Board to take the program under their umbrella as a sign of that parish wide commitment.
- **Support for Institutions of the Holy Land:** We usually raise funds for the Good Friday Offering at the Maundy Thursday dinner. Instead, this year we urged parishioners to give on line to the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) and designate their gift for the Archbishop's COVID Relief and Recovery Fund. Our Advent sale of olive oil and olive wood crafts realized \$2,750 for the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children in Jerusalem.
- **Al Ahli Episcopal Hospital in Gaza.** A special appeal to help the hospital after the 11-day war raised \$8,500 which was sent to the hospital through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.
- **Educational Opportunities:** We continued our email blasts with information about webinars and others programs related to Palestine and Israel: more than 45 people joined our webinar, Voices from Friends of St. Mark's on the Ground, with Rev. Mitri Raheb, Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem, Aziz Abu Sarah, peace-building entrepreneur and co-founder of MEJDI Tours with which we have planned our pilgrimages, and Heidi Schott, Communications Director of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.
- **Future:** We sent a survey to the full parish in the fall to help us as we decide about the future role of our committee. We began that conversation with a dinner and discussion in the fall.

Bishop Walker School (BWS) (\$5,000): This school for boys is a tuition-free Episcopal school for children from traditionally underserved communities. We have regularly supported it with financial donations and continue exploring other means of supporting their work. April 6th, students began returning to in-person classes and BWS released a multi-year strategy of intensive academic recovery from COVID-related learning loss, focused on robust summer programming, increasing the professional capacity of its faculty, designing data-informed instruction, and maintaining holistic support systems for its scholars and families. Among the year's other highlights were summer guitar lessons

(through a new partnership with the DC Jazz Festival) and outdoor education on Kingman Island (through the Living Classrooms Foundation). In October, Michael O. Molina completed his first year as Head of School and announced that BWS had earned a full seven-year accreditation from the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools.

See <https://www.bishopwalkerschool.org/> for more information. And see <https://buff.ly/3qAWI8W> to read about the day the late Bishop Desmond Tutu visited BWS!

Incarceration Justice group [IJ] (\$1000)- Mission Statement - *We, as part of a faith community, believe all people are loved by God and need to be treated with care, dignity, and respect even while incarcerated and after returning to the community. We strive to educate ourselves and others about incarceration justice and partner with other organizations to advocate and work for change, while participating in direct service opportunities.*

Most meetings have been via Zoom. We continue to write letters to D.C. residents imprisoned in federal facilities. Throughout the past year, we completed the Lenten Mite box project, writing daily entries to educate our parishioners about incarceration issues. We raised more than \$2780, donated to Free Minds Book Club, and presented at a small gathering in the courtyard <https://freemindsbookclub.org/>

We joined the Returning Citizens Action Network as one of over 20 churches and synagogues to meet the urgent needs of individuals and families entangled in the D.C. justice system. More than six financial donations were given i to meet individual, specific and urgent needs; several IJ members provide ongoing support such as healthy food for a returned citizen who is medically challenged and toys, school supplies, clothing, and shoes for four children whose mother is in prison being cared for by their grandmother. We continue to welcome speakers to our meetings, and partner with community organizations.

Two of us have joined the diocesan Prison Ministry Task Force, to work on broader issues. Our group has grown from five to about thirty-five individuals; average attendance at meetings is 6-12. We are thankful for the support of the Outreach Board providing donations to the Interfaith Action for Human Rights [IAHR] and Free Minds Book Club. *Contact: Jan Lipscomb at juanita.lipscomb@gmail.com*

Green Lions *Betsy Agle, Mary Neznec, co-chairs* We mark with deep sadness at the loss of Collie Agle, a longstanding member of the Green Lions. We will miss his input and gentle presence at our meetings and hands-on willingness to participate in community environmental projects, as well as his inspiration to offer his creative vision to planning sessions.

This past year the Green Lions focused on financial support of Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GWIPL) activities and their work in environmental justice throughout the city as well as their advocacy before the DC City Council for green policies and funding to support those programs. Given the Covid lockdown and limited face-to-face activities in the church, we reached out through GWIPL to achieve a wider impact through our contribution to their advocacy work. We have also continued to monitor our compliance with support and dissemination of 'green policies and procedures' as outlined by the mayor's efforts to make DC an increasingly environmentally responsible jurisdiction.

One family-oriented community activity was to invite the congregation and Sunday school children to accompany two 'professional 'gas sniffers' from WIN and the Sierra Club to sniff for gas leaks in manholes and drains in the blocks around our church. Several families and children joined in doing detective work to discover gas leaks and found them at every site tested within a block of the church. About one-fifth of DC's greenhouse gas emissions come from the gas utility according to official figures, but because gas leaks are severely underreported, emissions from the gas sector are likely much higher.

"When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money." – Native American saying

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

Yoga Center: *Christine Romero, Director* The center continued to offer a range of classes both on Zoom and in-person throughout 2021-2022.

Dance Studio *Rosetta Brooks, Director* We continued Zoom classes during the pandemic, resuming in-person classes September 13, 2021. Interestingly, Adult Chair Exercise and Pilates had included some Zoom participants who had moved away from the area. Resuming in-person classes was especially meaningful to the youngest students who had struggled to participate remotely. Instructor Dorothy Walker led an informal outdoor demonstration class at the end of May at the Washington Cathedral.

Music Studio *Jeff Kempfskie, Manager* In-person piano and voice lessons were discontinued during the pandemic. Both teachers, Stephanie Ng and Diane Atherton, taught lessons virtually. Stephanie moved last summer, leaving us without a piano teacher. Diane continued teaching voice lessons virtually and resumed in-person lessons in the fall. In February we found two new piano teachers to teach through the studio and are looking forward to bringing in more members from the Capitol Hill community to learn music.

Concerts and Other Music Events Despite fewer performances due to the pandemic, we did allow a few groups of musicians to perform at the church, including the 21st Century Consort, the Folger Consort, the Washington Bach Consort and a professional choir, The Thirteen. Chiarina Chamber Players continued their monthly virtual concerts and eventually invited people to attend in-person.

St. Mark's Players February 2021 to February 2022, the Players engaged in some internal discussions and growth opportunities. April 2021, we hosted virtual auditions for *The Drowsy Chaperone* and managed to cast, rehearse and film that production using both virtual and in-person methods. The footage from that is being edited and should be available in mid-2022 to share with audiences online. The Players have also been active in supporting the performances of the Folger Consort with the help of our Technical Director, Ernie Molina.

Visual Arts Group has supported worship, youth and Christian Education through participatory art experiences. During Lent 2021, we inscribed a canvas banner with words people sent in to describe their experience of 'wilderness'. Each week more words were added, forming a word cloud in black charcoal. The banner was hung on the 3rd Street fence to both to engage passersby and to allow the weather to change the words. After a noose was found in the courtyard, we organized a poster-making session to fill the fence with messages of love, and took the opportunity to add colorful symbols of love, peace and resurrection to the banner, which remains on display in Baxter Hall.

During the warm months, we assisted the Youth Director in facilitating creative opportunities for kids in the courtyard. With Betty Foster's leadership, we helped young people and elders work together to make handcrafted decorations for a Christmas tree in Baxter Hall.

We were invited to develop some Christian Education classes related to the arts. Mary Cooper led a Zoom class on the stained-glass windows in early February, and an introduction to dance class is planned for May 2022.

The last major project undertaken by the Visual Arts Group was the Loaves and Fishes sculpture made by dozens of parishioners in Advent 2018 and Lent 2019, just before we went fully remote. The finished sculpture will, at last, be used during Lent of 2022!

PARISH LIFE *Coordinator: open* This pillar has been without a coordinator since Julie Murphy resigned to lead Outreach. The position requires only oversight and some coordination. If interested and willing, please contact the Senior Warden.

Hospitality *Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea* Due to the pandemic, hospitality was intermittent during the last year. In warm weather, we were able to provide lemonade, iced tea, and water in the courtyard. That offered a welcome time for the community to gather outside. For a brief period, the Holy Grounds coffee crew and Hospitality volunteers were back in action in Baxter Hall with coffee and pre-packaged snacks. We are ready to reinstate hospitality at whatever level when it is deemed safe for the community.

All of this has understandably put long term issues, such as sustainability of Sunday lunch and the need for sufficient volunteers for weekly hospitality, on hold.

We note with great sadness the death of one of our faithful volunteers at coffee hour, Sunday lunch and the Pub, Jim Steed. These were among the ministries through which he served our community for many years. His wry sense of humor, whether in a line delivered sotto voce from his seat in the nave or behind the Pub, is a joy to remember.

Dozier Library *Peter Hawley, coordinator; Cecilie Jones, Ray Murray members.* The library was inaccessible until September, 2021. Nevertheless, the committee continued to evaluate donated books for possible inclusion and to purchase a limited number of new books including those on racial justice recommended by the congregation in our Fall 2020 online survey. We added a number of excellent children's books, both donated and purchased in September and did a major re-shelving in order to accommodate them. We displayed many at the Parish Fair and demonstrated the online catalog, accessible under the "Learning" menu on the web site. We created special book displays in the library linked to seasons of the church year, sermon series, and congregational interests. In early 2022, the family of the late Jim Steed donated his personal collection to the library. With the help of the clergy, advisors Bob Ewald and Nat White, and the Committee selected approximately 50 books to expand the collection or upgrade existing copies.

College of Crustaceans *Doris Burton reporting* The College remains buried deep in the Bay while we await the restoration to the surface of parish activities. There was some good fortune to this delay as the price of crabs in the summer of '21 had jumped to an unheard of \$450/bushel, a price that might have shuttered the Feast (or impoverished the partakers.) We raise our collective claws in memory of three departed members: Jim Steed, Crab of the Year for 1986, chosen for "sustained performance", was certainly one of the crabbiest among us. We shall miss him sorely at our annual dinner as he forced the College into some of its most memorable choices with a sharp wit and clear thought given to the final wording of a nomination. Hail, James.

Hail, too, to Ellen Cardwell. Long departed to the hinterlands of Wisconsin, Ellen was COTY in 1987, for "closing down the pub (in the old undercroft) so the women in the spring musical had dressing room space. Then, those Little People got green glitter all over the nave floor during the Players production of the 'Wizard of Oz'".

Finally, Hail to Don Mosher, COTY 2004. While Don's specific contribution has been lost to memory (his and ours), he was adamant about what he would/would not accept, a new sign (following the construction of the undercroft) among them. The choice of his initial Sign Committee did not suit him so he disbanded it, formed another and, eventually, got the bronze lion now in the tower corner (controversially, not regarded as a 'sign') But he also pressed for the installation and processing of an American flag in the nave (after petitions and announcements galore). Don would be most distressed (and, no doubt object) to the current rector's objection to the presence of that flag (being Canadian is no excuse).

Film Club *Alicia Ruble, convener* Ever since the Film Club went on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have been missing our friends and flicks, and plotting how soon we could resume safely. We are discussing holding a belated 20th Anniversary celebration (we started in May 2000) and movie night sometime later this spring. However, change is a constant: we will be moving on from our Geranium Street location following that occasion. Thanks to our fabulous hosts, John and Nancy Yanish, for 20 years of hospitality! We are exploring the idea of holding occasional movie nights in Baxter Hall and will keep everyone posted once we know more.

Women to Women *Edna Boone* We had very few activities this year. We held one garden meet-up and, in the fall, a book reading/discussion/signing with Elizabeth McCain. We look forward to expanding in 2022.

Widows/Widowers Group *Mary Cooper, convener;* We meet monthly on the first Friday to provide support to people who are facing or have experienced the loss of a spouse. During the pandemic the meetings have been conducted by Zoom, a format that is likely to continue since it allows members to participate without leaving home.

Lichfield Link *Doris Burton, Representative* Despite distance and the pandemic (which made visits impossible), the Link still lives. The Lichfield verge and processional cross are used in services as a reminder (and the display in the downstairs lounge can provide information for newcomers.) Patricia and Brian Empsall, the Lichfield end, continue to stay in touch

about both church and state events. Director of Music, Jeff Kempksie, has been giving thought to another choir tour which will include time in Lichfield, an exciting thought for your rep in hopes of reviving our connection.

Pub Steward/Pub Lunch We have lost our stalwart Steward with the passing of Jim Steed. Marge Ware, his occasional assistant will, hopefully step up when food service (lunch) returns. Since Mar '20, we have not had either the pub open or lunch served.

St. Mark's East *Michelle Strange, coordinator* This group incorporates all the parishioners living east of the river: Collington Life Care, Bowie, and Davidsonville, approximately 21 parishioners. Throughout the pandemic, we held a zoom meeting monthly to simply connect and check in with one another. It proved particularly helpful during the most severe lock-downs when Collington folk could not leave or have guests. As St. Mark's opened in September, interest began to wane and our last meeting was December 2021.

Women's Investment Network (WIN) *Nancy Donaldson, Penny Farley, conveners* Using a shared leadership model, WIN members continued to meet via ZOOM in 2021.

Caregivers Support Group *Julie Murphy* This group was created in 2020 and met monthly in 2021. The mission is to provide parishioners engaged in the care of a loved one with a safe space to share the challenges endemic to caregiving and, in that sharing, receive affirmation and reassurance. It is open to anyone in our community in need of support as they care for a loved one or friend.

The need for this group came out of one parishioner's experience with her elderly mother in assisted living but it quickly became apparent that there were others in our midst who were also struggling to juggle all that is required when a beloved friend or relative requires a high level of care and attention. The pandemic, of course, exacerbated all the things that caregiving demands: patience, compassion, decision-making about complicated health concerns, etc.

Our Adjunct Priest, Rev. Patricia Catalano, convenes the group each month. In addition to providing the virtual room and reminding participants, Patricia attends the meeting and offers appropriate prayers, readings, and spiritual comfort.

Lambda Lions *Keith Krueger, reporting* Our group has lacked an organizer since fall of 2020 when Mary Ellison moved to Mexico for work. Despite the lack of a leader(s), there have been periodic Zoom gatherings including one in November 2021. Early in the pandemic we created a series of gatherings exploring the role of telling our story, and included presentations by Elizabeth McCain (author/performer) and Louis Bayard (author). If you are interested in helping us reform our group, please email keithkrueger@hotmail.com

Archives & Parish History *Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Mary Cooper* We are responsible for building and sustaining the parish's archives of historical material dating to our founding in 1867 and for sharing our history with the parish. Our priority in 2021 was the restoration and preservation of our early registers (the official lists of members, baptisms, marriages and funerals). The work was done by ECS Conservation in Greensboro, North Carolina which had been recommended to us by the late Kitty Donnelly, our resident preservation specialist, with support from a designated gift in addition to funds from an earlier grant from the Endowment. In addition to rebinding, the contents were scanned to provide a digital version of the contents.

STAFF REPORTS

12th RECTOR *The Reverend Michele Morgan*

Dear Ones,

I write to you all with a very humble stance. I am amazed at your generosity for sending me on Sabbatical for four months later this year and I feel like a senior trying to finish off my seminary career. Though I think that way, it is very different because I am coming back. It is not the end of anything: it is, instead, the beginning of something quite extraordinary and exciting. So, I will tell you tales of the sabbatical next year.

Last year I wrote that I struggled to write a report. I felt as though everything familiar and normal about my job disappeared. Yet we learned how to stay a community: we did a lot of new things and started to work together again. With the support of a brand-new Senior Warden, Linell Grundman, and our other lay elected leaders, we continued to knit the community back together.

One of the significant ways we knit together is that we continued some fantastic online service, master-minded by Charlie Rupp, and David Deutsch, with help from Elizabeth Godec, JT Spivey, Tracy Councill and Chris Deutsch. We continued to hold services online at 10 am and 5 pm on Zoom, and, when the weather got nice, we did a hybrid service in the garden. David and Charlie continued to Livestream our service after gathering in person in the first week of June.

Elin Whitney Smith and Chris Berendes continued Monday-Wednesday-Friday Morning Prayer at 11 AM and Wednesday Bible Study, both on Zoom and with a community of folks dedicated to being together, reflecting on text, and giving each other support. It has been a gift to folks and another way we make community.

Our adjunct clergy, The Reverend Patricia Catalano, continued her Centering Prayer group online and, for the most part, meets daily. Patricia has been knitting together a community through generative and gifted work.

Our finances were healthy going into the shutdown in 2020 and we managed to come out of the year in the black by keeping our costs down. We are funding all the requests made and are optimistic that we will continue to grow programs that bring more love, more light, and more God into the world.

I want to thank Linell Grundman, our Senior Warden. Linell has invited people deeply into leadership. She has created structure in places where there was none and she and I keep each other's 'eyes on the prize' as we continue remaking what our church is becoming. The Vestry works to connect all of us, asking the questions that continue to knit us together. I am grateful to the nine of them: class of 2022: Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, & Kit Arrington; the class of 2023: Brent Bickley, Edna Boone, and Fritz Henn; our Treasurer, Frank Nickerson, and Register, Kim Bayliss, and, finally, our Diocesan Delegates: Raiford Gaffney, Mary Neznec, and Tom Getman.

I also want to thank our outgoing Junior Warden, Jim 'Doc' Pittman, who has done extraordinary work keeping the building together. I will miss him walking in my office to talk and I will miss him coming up with a new nickname for me every couple of months or so. It has been a treat to work with him, and I am looking forward to the kind of further trouble we can get into together in the near future!

Patricia Braley and James Rostron have moved on to other work: we benefited as an organization from their willingness to train their replacements. Michael Gravlee came in almost seven weeks after James left and Michael has worked to close the gap created by the delay in the hiring process. We are still figuring out some things but are grateful for how Michael has stepped in. Annick Milde has been with us a scant three weeks and has taken over the Parish Administrator of Finance job. Patricia said Annick has 'the right background and is so conscientious that she has quickly mastered the specific information I have shared with her.' Both Michael and Annick are keeping us on track to have places to meet and a way of being a community.

Jeff Kempksie continues to not only be fantastic on the small details, he is also making sure they add up to great Sunday mornings, concerts, teaching, and a choir that helps us worship every single week. Jeff has built a community in all of his work and continues to knit us all together.

Caleb Nelson Amaker has made great strides in creating volunteer opportunities and involving more folks in activities for families, kids, and intergenerational events. Caleb is building a program that creates a community for our youth and our families.

Patricia Catalano, our Adjunct Clergy, is exceptional in her depth of connecting people, her work as a pastor, and her knowledge of centering prayer. She creates community every day and we are blessed to have her among us.

Christopher Phillips has been reaching out to you and learning the craft of being a priest simultaneously. It is incredible to have a sounding board and have someone in the office suite I can teach. I am grateful for his goofy sense of humor and his desire to live more deeply into his call.

Haw'aa. It is an honor to be of service to you all.

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE RECTOR *The Rev. Christopher Phillips*

In late July, I was welcomed into the St. Mark's community as the Assistant Rector. At that time, much of the country was tentatively reopening after the closures forced by COVID. St. Mark's was also early in the process of reopening and it was a privilege to take part in discussions about how best to care for the physical and spiritual health of our community. The efforts to faithfully respond and adapt to changing circumstances made me think of Paul's letter to the Corinthians when he writes, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." Much of my work over the past eight months has sought to contribute to the critical work of restoration and reimagining that is underway.

Paul's words also have a personal resonance for me: I moved to Washington to begin my ministry at St. Mark's as deacon and I continue my ministry now as a priest. My ordination to the priesthood took place October 30, among our home congregation. It was a joyful event and a tangible example of the warm welcome that has been extended to me. I have greatly benefited from Michele's mentorship, the experience and collegiality of our staff, the insight of Senior Warden Linell Grundman and the Vestry, and my interactions with everyone for whom St. Mark's is important. I am also thankful for the support of the Diocese of Washington and continue to learn from the monthly Genesis curriculum provided for clergy who are new to the diocese.

I have assumed a variety of responsibilities. I assist in worship, preaching and presiding in our regular Sunday and Thursday services. I also contribute to worship planning by working with the Liturgy Planning meetings, staff, and interested members of the congregation to create liturgies that are meaningful to our community. I help to plan and deliver pastoral care, assisting with funerals and baptisms, meeting with newcomers, and visiting parishioners. I support the work of the Vestry and committees formed to address the needs of the church and I have helped to plan Vestry retreats of 2021 and 2022. Additionally, I assist with crafting communications and work to ensure that our records are up to date in Realm.

There is, as always, much good work that needs to be done to continue to strengthen our shared community. In a few weeks, Michelle will begin her sabbatical; I will miss her as a friend, a mentor, and a person of deep and anchored faith. Yet I am confident in the resilience of the people of St. Mark's and our shared ability to meet any circumstance with faith, compassion, and love. To borrow again from Paul: 'let us, surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, throw off everything that hinders and run with perseverance the race marked out for us'.

ADJUNCT CLERGY *The Rev. Patricia Catalano*

It continues to be a privilege for me to work with the people of St. Mark's. It's been more than four years since I became a member and it will be four years in May that I've been serving as Adjunct Priest, a non-stipendiary position. In 2022, I served in a variety of roles, including priest, spiritual guide, teacher and pastor.

Liturgical role:

I preached nine times between Jan.'21 and Feb.'22 and presided/co-presided with Michele and, starting in November, with Chris after his ordination on the Sundays I preached. I presided several times when Michele was away and at the five o'clock service when Cindy, Chris (before his priesting) and Joel preached, in order to give Michele a break.

I officiated at the wedding of Jessica Royals (St. Mark's parishioner) and Lauren Prease, held in Baltimore, Sept. 12, 2021. Together with Michele, I baptized Josephine Anneliese Stute February 20, 2022. I also heard confession on a couple of occasions.

Other ministries

Centering Prayer: This continues to thrive and has become a strong online ministry. From a small group that started May '18, meeting in the chancel every Thursday morning, it has grown to 57 members, from our area as well as California, Maine, Mexico, New York, South Carolina and Washington state. We still meet almost every morning at 8. March 19, 2022 will be two years that we've been meeting on zoom. Not everyone attends every day but members alternate in a very organic manner. The total number of days we held centering prayer in 2021 was 308 with a total attendance of 5,083.

We have created a prayerful community of contemplatives who engage in functional theology on an almost daily basis. Last year, we read/discussed eight books, as well as various articles and reflections. Over the course of yet another challenging year, our group continues to grow in faith and to support one another pastorally and spiritually as we walk in our spiritual journey.

Christian Education

Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles: A new group of twenty-two (22) participants, including four facilitators, completed the Sacred Ground Class. This was the second time this class was offered at St. Mark's. We met for ten sessions from September 15 through February 9. Our wrap-up session was on Ash Wednesday. We concluded our circle with an interactive liturgy, which included heartfelt reflections by all in attendance. After ten classes of deep immersion into the history of our country and learning about how systemic racism and injustice are woven into the fabric of our lives, those who identify as white were humbled and chastened by the amount of work that still needs to be done to redress the inequities that persist. We had a diverse group of participants: we were interracial and from different backgrounds and walks of life. The bonds we formed will last forever and we all want to continue learning and sharing together into the future. This is the intended purpose of the sacred ground circles: to foster the desire for more knowledge in matters of racial and social justice, and to hopefully translate that thirst into action.

The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series is part of the Becoming Beloved Community initiative of The Episcopal Church, a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is built around powerful documentary films and readings.

Other:

- met with the Sabbatical Committee Co-Chairs, the Senior Warden, and the Assistant Rector in preparation for my increased pastoral and liturgical duties while Michele is away.
- participated in the Pastoral Care committee meetings and will become more involved in the pastoral care efforts while Michele is away on sabbatical; Started convening and providing pastoral support for the Caregivers group; attended Diocesan Convention in January '21 and '22
- Attended weekly clergy and staff meetings and some WIN meetings

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC *Jeff Kempskie*

The 2021-2022 season once again presented a variety of challenges to music at St. Mark's. Despite the pandemic, we managed to continue making music on Sundays, hosted several concerts, and happily transitioned from mostly virtual work to singing and playing together in-person.

Chancel Choir Spring 2021 was very much a continuation of 2020 in that soloists led the music on Sunday mornings and the choir met only over Zoom, contributing music through virtual choir projects. These projects, usually involving both video and audio, were the best alternative we could come up with for keeping the choir engaged and interested during the heart of the pandemic. Among the highlights were anthems such as "Wash me Thoroughly", "God So Loved the

World,” special music for Holy Week, and festive music for Easter, some of which incorporated recorded brass. We continued recording a little more after Easter, including the anthem “Hallelu” featuring Doris Summey as the soloist. Several singers also recorded music that was played at the wedding of choir members Jordan Meyer and Nick Rogers.

By late June, once I was fully vaccinated and comfortable, members of the choir were able to gather and sing, spread out in the nave and masked, as a way of transitioning forward. About 15 singers sang for the morning service on August 15th, the group’s first appearance in more than 17 months. By early September, regular Thursday night rehearsals resumed and the choir was back in business! Highlights in the fall included a performance of Faure’s ‘Requiem’ on All Saints’ Day with instrumentalists and guest singers and an Advent Lessons & Carols service in early December.

In mid-December, we even held our beloved “Carols & Cheer” event in-person.

Due to low numbers in the tenor section in the fall, I hired an additional tenor on a semi-regular basis to help balance the group. The choir sang with brass on Christmas Eve and continued rehearsing in January, albeit spread out again, during the peak of the Omicron variant. Most recently, the choir sang an evensong service, something that required lots of extra time and effort. The group’s trip to England last year was canceled and, as of this writing, it has yet to be determined if we will be able to do that trip this summer (ed. update: postponed to, hopefully, ’23)

Children’s Choir Recently renamed to be more gender-neutral than “Boys & Girls Choir,” the Children’s Choir spent much of 2021 on hiatus. In September, we were very pleased to welcome Judith Rautenberg as the new director. Coming to us with a wealth of experience and fresh ideas, Judith began rehearsals in late September with a handful of children. By mid-November, when they sang during a service for the first time, another handful of kids had also begun rehearsing with the group. In addition to meetings on Sunday mornings from 11-11:45, Judith sends out “one-minute rehearsal” recordings to parents so that they could have their children practice the music with Judith during the week. She also extends the rehearsal by 15-20 minutes to work with the oldest children on more challenging music. The hope is to eventually have two groups, one for the youngest (approximately 4-8 years old) and one for those 9+. Though the Christmas Pageant service was canceled, the choir sang its prepared music in January. In mid-February we put together a retreat and rehearsed, ate pizza and ice cream, and the children played and got to know each other better. There are now more than a dozen kids singing and we are excited to continue developing this group!

Handbell Choir, previously on hiatus, resumed its bi-monthly Wednesday rehearsals as of September. Katherine Anderson and Sarah Headley volunteered to lead this group. The ensemble is currently learning new music, gaining new members, and continually working on developing new skills, all while having fun in the process. They played for a 5 o’clock service in mid-February.

Instruments & Equipment The 1959 Holtkamp organ remains in good working order, only requiring its twice-annual tuning over the course of the year. The swell shade motor and wooden shades (closest to the high altar) continue showing signs of their age and will need replacement soon. We are in the midst of making plans to get the organ cleaned - a major and expensive project - and also designing some modest upgrades to the swell box to increase its effectiveness. The upgrades will result in more noticeable gradual crescendos and diminuendos. The cleaning and re-leathering will give the organ another 30 years or so of functionality before it needs replacement. The grand piano in the nave was used frequently over the year and tuned regularly. The Baxter Hall and Music Studio pianos were used minimally. The church’s three digital pianos remain in satisfactory condition. The handbells are generally in good working order. The harpsichord was not used.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES *Caleb Nelson Amaker*

In 2021, we completed our first full year of pandemic programming. In a year of rapidly shifting Covid-19 situations and protocols, we completed our renovation process and continued building our program. We have several accomplishments to celebrate!

The year began with the continuing of regular events. We held a Family Eucharist service each month of the school year with student readers and my children’s reflection. We also continued production of our Bible Storytime Podcast, currently received by 31 households and recording a Youtube Vlog, Growing with God. This is a conversation between me

and Rev. Morgan encouraging kids to ask questions about passages of the Bible and pray together. Episodes were recorded through May of 2021 before going on hiatus until 2022.

February '21, after experimenting with non-liturgical events, I chose two to recur monthly: one for children and one for youth. Our children's event, *Art in the Garden*, provides children and families with a church-themed arts and craft project to do together in the 3rd Street Garden. Our youth event, *Culture Club*, brings middle and high school students together monthly to discuss a theological concept. Students are encouraged to find songs, videos, and other examples from pop culture related to the theme. We then share and discuss these in a Zoom meeting. Our first *Culture Club* was held in March '21 and continues monthly.

April, after 3-4 months of brainstorming and consideration, the YFM Renovation team finalized a revised mission statement and three long-term ministry goals. Our mission statement reads:

The Youth and Family Ministries program at St. Mark's:

- I. **Welcomes children, youth and their families** into a loving and trusting Christian community
- II. **Encourages spiritual growth** by teaching the tenets and traditions of Christian faith
- III. **Practices faith in action** by serving those in need in the greater community and beyond"

Our long-term ministry goals were written with the intention of being large or "a stretch" and to be worked on over the course of three years. Once brainstorming was complete, the leadership team engaged each proposal and finalized a list of three goals to be completed by 2024:

- First: to have a comprehensive volunteer system in place with 60 volunteers from all demographics having completed the process.
- Second: to have 60 hours of service opportunities available to our youth annually.
- Third: to have 100 children/youth/families participate in events/programs geared towards intergenerational connection.

Along with each goal, a one-year benchmark was created to help measure progress in 2022. Our benchmarks for 2022 are:

- First: to have a volunteer system, including recruitment, on-boarding, support, and celebration, created and implemented.
- Second: 12 hours of service opportunities, not including a summer service trip, available to our youth
- Third: Two events and two programs will have been implemented that create connections between the children/youth/families and the "Third-Agers" of the church.

I presented the mission statement, goals and benchmarks to the Vestry at their June '21 meeting.

The Renovation team created a volunteer system engagement process for all YFM volunteers to include identification, training (Safe Church component), support check-in, and a volunteer appreciation event at the end of the school year. We finalized volunteer job descriptions for chaperones and event coordinators. Each will be sent to potential volunteers to help clarify what is being asked of them and to simplify the volunteer recruitment process. Each YFM event is to be led by a coordinator who works with me to plan and facilitate the event. Our 2021 coordinators included Kris Humphrey and Grace Aspinall, who brought creativity, wisdom, and leadership to their respective events.

May '21 YFM mailed each of the families in our registry an advertisement of our in-person summer events. Pentecost weekend, we held *Art in the Garden*, the first of these events. Several families gathered in the garden for an hour of crafting and fellowship. *Art in the Garden* was also held in June, July, and August.

Senior Send-off Sunday was held in June. Our graduating seniors gave reflections on their experiences at St. Mark's and celebrated the Eucharist with Michele. We gathered middle and high school students for two service projects: in June, students met at Peirce Mill to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day and we spent two hours picking up trash around the river and park. Students also worked with the Capital Area Food Bank in July.

September: the YFM Renovation Team became the YFM Leadership team, having completed the renovation process begun in 2020. Paul Albergo completed his tenure on the Leadership Team, and we were joined by Belinda Sims.

September 12, 2021 YDM held a party to kick off the 2021-2022 school year. Titled “Heroes Unite!”, we encouraged kids to dress in superhero costumes and offered activity stations including a mask-making station, a superhero obstacle course, and a water balloon toss. We had a station for parents where we debuted our retooled mission statement, handed out calendars, and allowed parents to register their kids for the year. September 18, we held a retreat for senior high students, chaperoned by Alisa Tanaka-Dodge, our first in-person retreat since the fall of 2019. Four students joined us at Claggett Center for an overnight retreat. We played games, shared meals, and did a meditation to prepare for the school year.

October: *Art in the Garden* was retitled *Family Craft Coffee Hour*. We invited students to paint pumpkins for Hallowe’en. Eight students participated.

November: we gathered to make Advent wreaths. Grace Aspinall coordinated the event with kids exercising their creativity decorating wreaths with ribbon. Fifteen students participated, taking home decorated wreaths with candles and a family devotional.

December: Annual Christmas pageant. This year’s pageant was envisioned to be a hybrid production, with sections of video to be shown in person and online. Unfortunately, due to the spread of the Omicron variant, the in-person portion of the pageant was canceled out of an abundance of caution. Families were encouraged to participate online.

Throughout the year, YFM continued our communication efforts. In addition to a weekly newsletter and family Bible study questions, we updated the congregation on our renovation process through reports in the Youth E-News and the E-Gospel. Our Bible Storytime Podcast recorded and released another 98 episodes in addition to the 39 episodes released in ’20. We continued to connect with families offline by mailing invitations to big events and sending students birthday cards from me. As Director, I led in each decision-making process and was assisted and supported by the YFM Renovation team and the YFM Leadership Team.

The Renovation Team consisted of Paul Albergo, Kris Humphrey, Mary Thuell, and Shay Waye.

The Leadership Team consists of Kris Humphrey, Belinda Sims and Shay Waye.

Special thanks go to our event coordinators, Kris Humphrey and Grace Aspinall, and all those who volunteered for events.

We are looking forward to all that we have coming in the next year!

LEGACY LIONS

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

The members as of March 1, 2022 include:

Scilla Adams

Betsy Athey & Frank Lloyd*

Bart Barnes

Eileen Blumenthal

Janice Brown*

Mary Anderson Cooper

Joya Cox*

Stephanie & David Deutsch

Kitty Nicholson Donnelly* & Harrison
Donnelly

Linda & Bob Ewald

Karen Falk

Betty & Wes Foster

Raiford Gaffney

Rob Hall

Penny & Brock* Hansen

Rosemary Harold & Michael Knipe

Tucker* & Jack* Harris
Nadine Hathaway
Peter Hawley
JoEllen Hayden & George Meng
Anne & Robert Headley
Jan Hoffman
Nora Howell
Linda Huntington
Gale & Wayne Johnson
Josie & Bill Jordan
Keith Krueger
Patricia Latin
Elizabeth Long
Beryl Maloney-Lillaston
Randall David Marks
Bertha Martin
Marilyn & Jim* Meek
Winnie* & Don Mosher*
Doris Muller-Burton & Jack Burton*

Rita & Matt Ossolinski
David Perry
Kathryn Powers
Maureen Shea & Kenn Allen
David Shaw
Marilu Sherer
Linda Staheli & David Abramowitz
James A. Steed*
Joe Tarantolo
Lil & Arnold* Taylor
Sherrill Taylor
Carol Thornhill
Susan Thompson
Louise Walsh & Charlie Rupp
Mary Welker
Marjorie & David Wellman
Nat White
Gretchen & David Willson

*Other parishioners have committed to a legacy gift but have asked to remain
anonymous*

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All 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.
Doris Burton, editor