



**ST. MARK'S + CAPITOL HILL**  
**Washington, DC**

**Annual Meeting**

**And**

**Report to the Parish**

**March 1, 2022— February 28, 2023**

**March 5, 2023**

**Volume 14**

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### CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

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

**Senior Warden:**

**James A. Brooks, JR**

**Vestry:**

*three seats, each for a term of three years*

**Diocesan Delegate:**

*One seat, for a term of three years*

*Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions*

**Nominating Committee**

Louise Walsh (SW) *chair*; Dave Wellman (JW), Fritz Henn, Edna Boone, Brent Bickley *Members of the Vestry*  
 Kenn Allen, Charlie Rupp, *Members of the Parish*  
 The Rev. Michele H. Morgan *ex officio*

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

*Zoom room opens at 12:00 pm*

12:30 Opening Prayer  
**Call to Order**  
Announcement of Quorum  
Approval of Minutes/2022 Meeting and acknowledgment of Annual Report

The Reverend Christopher Phillips, Associate Rector  
The Reverend Michele Morgan, Rector  
Shay Waye, Register

### **State of the Parish Part 1**

Louise Walsh, Senior Warden

### **By-law Revisions**

Rev. Michele Morgan

1. Changing the date of the Annual Meeting
  - Rationale
  - Discussion
  - Vote
2. Authorizing virtual/hybrid meetings
  - Rationale
  - Discussion
  - Vote
3. Title change of Register to Clerk
  - Rationale
  - Discussion
  - Vote
4. Allowing special meetings to amend By-Laws
  - Rationale
  - Discussion
  - Vote

### **1:10 State of the Parish Part 2**

Christian Education  
Financial Report

Greg Niblett, Christian Education Team  
Randy Marks, Treasurer

### **1:25 Elections**

Senior Warden Election Nominating Committee Chair

- 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

Diocesan Delegation

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

### **1:50 State of the Parish Part 3**

Rector's Report

Rev. Michele Morgan

### **1:52 Election Results**

Comments

newly-elected Senior Warden

### **2:00 Final Acknowledgments**

### **2:10 Blessing**

### **2:15 Adjournment**

## 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*<sup>1</sup> 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, 1988<sup>1</sup>

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)

<sup>1</sup>No minutes of the Annual Meetings prior to 1988 survive to identify the contents of these amendments

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: MARCH 5, 2023

Notes:

1. Author has first right of debate
2. Amendments to the amendments must be voted on before final consideration of the original amendment.
3. Original text **bolded**: change is underlined

### **Proposed Amendment 1: Section 201 to allow flexibility in the date of the Annual Meeting:**

Section 201; Annual Meetings: The Members of the Parish will hold an Annual Meetings on a date the Vestry shall designate between January 1 and March 31 of each year 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.

### **Proposed Amendment 2: Sections 204 and 205 to allow for virtual or hybrid Parish meetings:**

Section 204: Notice of Annual Meetings: 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. The notice shall specify whether the meeting shall be in-person, exclusively virtual, or in-person and virtual ("hybrid"). If the meeting is partially or completely virtual, the notice shall provide the information necessary to attend the meeting virtually.

Section 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. If the Special meeting is to consider a change to these By-Laws, then at least thirty days' notice shall be given. The notice shall specify whether the meeting shall be in-person, exclusively virtual, or in-person and virtual ("hybrid"). If the meeting is partially or completely virtual, the notice shall provide the information necessary to attend the meeting virtually. The notice also 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.

### **Proposed Amendment 3: Sections 204, 405.A, and 504 to change the title of "Register" to "Clerk:"**

Section 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 Clerk** will be the Secretary of the meeting. If the **Register Clerk** is not available, then the presiding officer will appoint instead a member of the Parish to serve as Secretary of the meeting.

Section 405.A. Officers. At the first meeting of the Vestry after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect by simple majority a **Register Clerk**, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer (s), and such other officers of the Vestry as the Vestry deems the Parish needs.

Section 504: Duties of the **Register Clerk**. The **Register Clerk** 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.

### **Proposed Amendment 4: to allow the Parish to amend the By-Laws at special meetings of the Parish:**

Section 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 or Special 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.

*See also proposed Amendment 2 regarding the amendment to Section 205.*

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 <sup>1</sup>	174	Kim Bayliss
March 14, 2021 <sup>1</sup>	176 devices/417	Kim Bayliss
March 27, 2022 <sup>1</sup>	108 devices	Kim Bayliss

<sup>1</sup>Because of Covid-19 shut-down mid-March, 2020, the next two annual meetings were held virtually. The count in 2021 was difficult to manage and should not be considered accurate. The 2022 meeting was part virtual/part live and only devices were counted.

LITURGICAL SERVICES									
Year	Sunday	Week-day	Private Eucharist	Marriages	Burials	Baptisms <sup>9</sup>	Morning Prayer <sup>10</sup>	Compline <sup>10</sup>	
2009	104	21	16	4	2				
2010	144 <sup>8</sup>	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			
2020	92 <sup>11</sup>	3	33	2	3	3	1600 <sup>10</sup>	300 <sup>10</sup>	
2021	121	26	3	3	5	8	156 <sup>14</sup>	60	
2022		0 <sup>15</sup>							

<sup>8</sup>Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

<sup>9</sup>Statistics added in 2018

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

<sup>11</sup>Covid shut-down occurred March 12, 2020; number reflect lack of in-person services

<sup>12</sup>Reflect total attendance over the course of months

<sup>13</sup>In person services resumed June, 2021

<sup>14</sup>Number of services; for average attendance, see Worship Report, 2021

<sup>15</sup>Weekday Eucharist is on hiatus

## MEMBERSHIP

Year	Pledge units	Pledges Adults	Children/pledging Members <sup>1</sup>	Visitors	Ave. Sunday attendance	Baptized Members <sup>2</sup>	Communicants/Good Standing <sup>3</sup>
2004 <sup>4</sup>	340						
2005	328						
2006	384						
2007	419						
2008	390					830	
2009	362	534	137	233	291	+31/-5 =856 <sup>5</sup>	654 (536A/128Y) <sup>6</sup>
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 <sup>7</sup>	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 <sup>8</sup>	285	414	156	16	291	+20/-21+=570	570(414A+156Y)
2021	248	362	36	86	212	+21/16+575	570(441A+156Y)
2022							

<sup>1</sup> Age 18/younger

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Included as a baseline; numbers from 2004-2007 recovered from an annual meeting document found in archives.

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

<sup>6</sup> A(A)dults/Y(Y)outh

<sup>7</sup> The drop in numbers is the result of a 'clean-up' of the parish records done periodically by clergy.

<sup>8</sup> Reflects shut down of regular services re: COVID-19 pandemic



*This winged lion of St. Mark can be seen on the exterior signs.  
This version was designed by John Lineberger.*

**Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting: March 27, 2021**

*DRAFT – For Approval at the 2023 Annual Meeting*

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

**Opening Prayer:** The Annual Meeting opened with a prayer led by Assistant Rector, The Rev. Christopher Phillips.

**Call to Order:** A motion to call the meeting to order made by Charmian Crawford and seconded by Mark Bohannon. Hearing no objections, the meeting was called to order by the rector, Michele Morgan.

**Announcement of Quorum:** Register, Kim Bayliss, announced the presence of a quorum (108 devices registered via Zoom).

**Approval of the Minutes** of the 2022 Annual Meeting: Tom Getman moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Margaret Crenshaw. The minutes were approved without objection.

**State of the Parish:**

Outreach: Julie Murphy  
Christian Education: Karen Falk  
Sabbatical Committee: Louise Walsh  
Treasurer: Frank Nickerson  
Senior Warden: Linell Grundman  
Rector: Michele Morgan

**Elections:** Kit Arrington, Chair of the Nominating Committee announced the slate of candidates for the Vestry:

Junior Warden – David Wellman

Vestry, 3-year term - Harrison “Hank” Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, and Nick Rogers

Vestry, 2-year term - Katherine Buchanan

The Nominations Committee Chair called for nominations from the floor. Seeing none, the chair declared the nominations from the floor closed without objection.

Candidates were asked to respond to the following question: *We have streaming services, Zoom classes and meetings, masks and social distancing, gradual returns to in-person gathering, and we’re headed into a rector sabbatical. How do you see these changes impacting what St. Mark’s will look like in the future?*

After each candidate responded, the vote was called. Each candidate was elected by acclamation.

The Nominating Committee Chairman announced the slate of candidates for the position of Diocesan Delegate:

Tom Getman: 3-year term

Mary Neznok: 2-year term

Ruth Roman: 1-year term

The chair called for nominations from the floor. Seeing none, the chair declared the nominations from the floor closed.

Candidate were asked to respond to the following question: *Please share with us how you see your role representing St. Mark’s to the Diocese, and as a messenger from the Diocese to us?*

After each candidate responded, the vote was called. All candidates were elected by acclamation.

**Acknowledgments** and presentation of gifts:

The Rector, The Rev. Michele Morgan, acknowledged the help of the Technology Committee in making the Annual Meeting possible. She thanked Raiford Gaffney for her service as Diocesan Delegate and Jim Pittman as Junior Warden. Gifts of appreciation were presented to Vestry members Kit Arrington, Andrew Stafford and Shay Waye for their three years of service.

The closing prayer and blessing was given by The Rev. Patricia Catalano.

**Adjournment:** Charmian Crawford moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Doris Burton.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Bayliss, Register

## VESTRY REPORTS

**SENIOR WARDEN** *Louise D. Walsh*

I became Senior Warden at a particularly stressful time at St. Marks. My gifted predecessor, Linell Grundman, who brought such boundless energy and talent to parish leadership, had abruptly resigned on December 5. When she called me with this stunning news, I urged her to reconsider. We'd worked closely together before, during, and after our rector's sabbatical.

That same day, our rector asked me to return as Senior Warden to complete Linell's term which would end on March 5 Annual Meeting. Michele and I too had worked closely before and after her sabbatical. I agreed; an emergency meeting followed where I was elected first to the Vestry and then as Senior Warden. The community would soon learn that Linell was battling interstitial pulmonary disease. She didn't know, I believe, that so little time was left. Linell's death January 13, almost six weeks after she resigned shook the parish. February 11, still shaken, we gathered in the packed nave with her family and friends to celebrate her rich life of service

My report has three themes: First: "How and why I became Senior Warden," you have just read; second: "The time between our two Annual Meetings, 2022-2023" addresses parish life right before, during, and after Michele's sabbatical, and third, "An overview of certain losses and gains" over the last 12 months. Acknowledgments close the report. I apologize for missed highlights; many, if not most, should appear elsewhere in the Annual Report.

*First theme:* once the Vestry approved the four-months sabbatical for our rector, with Michele's approval Linell asked Kenn Allen and me to chair a Sabbatical Advisory Committee. Our charge was "to support the Rector, Senior Warden, Vestry and senior parish program leaders to plan and realize a successful sabbatical for the rector in 2022." The committee's three members appointed jointly by the rector and Senior Warden were Charmian Crawford, Nancy Lucas and John-Anthony Meza. The team worked closely with Michele, Linell, and now-Associate Rector Chris Phillips and adjunct clergy Patricia Catalano to smooth the path to and through the sabbatical period. We interviewed clergy, staff and program leaders, and re-interviewed a smaller set after Michele returned. A fuller report of our work appears separately in this report. We gave Michele a big April sendoff in the courtyard where parishioners and their families enjoyed ice-cream sodas (Michele's idea) to celebrate the start of her time away.

During the April-September sabbatical period, a series of guest preachers celebrated with us on Sundays. Canonically in charge when the rector is away, the Senior Warden worked closely with Junior Warden Dave Wellman and the Vestry, meeting regularly with Chris Phillips whose overall responsibility included the daily operations and supervising our superb full-time staff who enabled St. Mark's to function smoothly during the sabbatical.

Rev. Patricia Catalano joined Chris at Sunday worship, along with leading daily Centering Prayer, and filled a large pastoral role with hospital visits and appointments with parishioners. Her invaluable ministry has continued in 2023. Soon after Michele left, our robust Christian Education program wound up its programs for the year, and the co-directors used summer to prepare for the coming program year, recruiting Sunday school teachers and preparing adult classes. Outreach activities and opportunities flourished, musical events filled the nave and summer choir returned for another season. The E-Gospels and online announcements featured an abundance of ways to participate in parish life through giving to others. Our lobby walls display photos of our engagement at St. Mark's and beyond, as did Baxter Hall and the undercroft lounge.

*Second Theme:* In May, former Worship Chair Doris Burton, convened three lively meetings in Baxter Hall seeking feedback on worship services that even drew first-time visitors (I know: they sat at my table!). The results of the meeting led to a formal electronic survey with results to be released later this spring. No question about it: participants welcomed the opportunity to express their views. No surprise: parishioners had vastly different ones.

In the nearly six months since Michele's return, our engagement with others has continued to grow. Just two Sundays ago, Michele announced eight baptisms scheduled for an upcoming Sunday. A worship Pilot Project, with our rector's blessing, drew at least 19 lay people onto three teams planning worship services in January, February and March (two per month), our clergy preaching at each one. I joined the planning team for March 5 (one service) and March 12. Each team meets with clergy and music director Jeff Kempkie to review the service. The congregation to date has been supportive, often enthusiastic. It is my hope that this pilot will morph into more lay engagement in worship planning and lift up innovative readings and approaches to worship.

During and after the sabbatical, our arts and women's programs flourished as you will see in other reports. A class led by Mary Cooper told the story of the clerestory stained-glass windows. December 7, we again hosted the annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence. President Biden came to speak (standing room only) as we pushed our 460-person occupancy limit; 167 viewers watched online. CSPAN filmed the whole program and so did Irish News. Biden is only the second U.S. president after Lyndon Johnson to attend St. Mark's. Outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) returned again to the vigil. So did U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy (both D-CT). The event happened because of the remarkable leadership of Stewart Andrews who played the key role in POTUS's participation and his team of volunteers (Maureen Shea, I'm waving at you!).

Our 2023 canvas chairs, Nora Howell and Linell Grundman, held three town meetings on stewardship on what it means to give to St. Mark's and where your pledge goes. By early February, we had 237 pledges for this year (ed: see table, page 19). More will arrive as we finish calls and so will late payments on 2022 pledges after statements went out to parishioners at the end of January. Relatedly, three town meetings were held January 23 on the 2023 budget presented by Treasurer Randy Marks.

Outreach flourished as we re-gathered, continuing our programs of giving to communities beyond our building's borders: feeding the un-housed hungry (Grate Patrol) and providing clothes to arriving migrants bused to DC. We furnished our new Afghan neighbors' apartment and invited them and their Afghan friends to pancake breakfasts in Baxter Hall. We reached across the country to Navajoland with summer plans for a youth visit to indigenous people on sacred land, and internationally to friends we have had since the 1980s at Lichfield Cathedral. We remembered the animals: our junior/senior high Sunday school teens baked and sold pumpkin bread, raising \$1400 for a DC shelter for cats and dogs. Young children make announcements at Sunday worship, asking us to sign up to bring bread for Eucharist.

*Third theme:* St. Mark's experienced deep grief with the deaths of longtime former and current members. John Barton, Gardner VanScoyoc, Jan Hoffman, John Lineberger, Elizabeth Long, Bertha Martin, Mary Welker, and Margaret Wood.

Later this spring, the Montessori School, a year-round tenant of several years, will move into its own building creating a big hole in our rental space income. However, a flood in the Library of Congress's auditorium forced them to shift their musical events to our nave, helping make up lost rental income. Jeff Kempeskie and Parish Administrator, Michael Gravlee, play a crucial role approving requests for space and preparing the necessary contracts.

Rev. Chris Phillips was promoted to Associate Rector, Rev. Patricia Catalano, adjunct clergy and leader of Centering Prayer increased her participation in our services during the sabbatical and continues her pastoral role; Seminarian Joel Martinez returned for his second year with us more active in our worship and outreach projects; Rev. Thom Sinclair, our new deacon, now celebrates the Eucharist with us.

The through-line of this report becomes clear: It is our engagement with one another within and beyond our comfort zone, inside and outside the walls of our beloved St. Mark's. It has been my honor to serve the community, to work alongside Michele who has taught me so much and with Dave Wellman who advised me on how to approach this report and taught me much about how he approaches his work.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANKS:** To Michele Morgan, who gave me the opportunity to be her partner in leadership in a dark time not just for the parish but in my own life where death felt pervasive with the second loss of a beloved family member during the pandemic. Working with Michele is a Master Class in embracing new initiatives and new ideas and welcome newcomers and longtime parishioners in warm and even challenging interactions; how to press forward into the strongest headwinds and tense situations even when you can't see the road ahead. I respect and admire her as my priest and as my friend on this journey we call life. This was a continuation of our time working on her sabbatical and after her return; to Chris Phillips who I got to spend too little time with but enough to build on the fine working relationship we had throughout Michele's sabbatical; To Rev. Patricia Catalano who I got to know better, not just during but after the sabbatical through her wisdom, her pastoral gifts, sermons, and insights into our inner struggles displayed so powerfully at Linell's memorial service.

To the remarkable staff: Annick Milde, Michael Gravlee, Jeff Kempeskie (the first to show me how to get “connected” in the office) whose extraordinary talent I grew to appreciate even more; To Caleb Nelson Amakar--our interactions were always a delight amid my admiration for his talent, not just with children but with their families and other parishioners; to the Vestry: the chance to get to know, albeit briefly, or know better several members and officers: Jeb Ory, Jan Lipscomb, Chris Berendes, Bill Jordan and Randy Marks immediately come to mind. I offer my personal thanks and gratitude to Bishop Mariann Budde for her wise counsel to the clergy and wardens and then with the Vestry at a painful time during our leadership transition. Her words of direction, advice and comfort were clear, concrete, unequivocal, pastoral and loving. It was a powerful message about the primacy of community and our duty to protect our parish.

I close with profound gratitude and heartfelt thanks to my beloved Charlie, husband of nearly 36 years, for his support throughout what was an intense and complicated time for us all.

**JUNIOR WARDEN** *David Wellman*

2022 has been a time of learning about our facility in addition to keeping everything in good working condition. It is a big task (bigger than I thought) involving the help of many to keep the building repaired and looking good. Overall, I believe our facilities are in good shape and listed below are some of the jobs completed to maintain it as such. Property financial categories account for about 20% of the annual budget and we ended 2022 on budget for these accounts. Next year, in addition to our ongoing maintenance and repairs, we will be initiating some much-needed capital improvements noted below.

Major work completed last year includes trimming the trees in the courtyard, cleaning carpets in the undercroft, replacing deteriorating sills and painting window frames, emergency repairs on the Baxter Hall roof, completing a major maintenance service on our boilers and installing an art hanging system in the nave.

We have also taken steps to make our facility a “smart” building: we replaced thermostats with commercial grade devices allowing remote monitoring and adjusting of our HVAC systems. We have upgraded the software on our fob door access system allowing us to remotely monitor and lock/unlock these doors. We recently migrated our fire alarm monitoring service from old copper Verizon lines to a more reliable internet-based connection with a cellular backup. These changes will make our building easier to maintain and save us money each month on utilities.

In the last year, a security assessment was done of our facility by a representative of the Dept. of Homeland Security. His report noted concerns and listed actions to address deficiencies. As a result, we will focus on work related to safety and security in the next year. We do not have accurate records of who has keys in our facility so will be rekeying the building and instituting a key management protocol to better track and manage these. We are developing the project scope for repairing/refinishing and installing new hardware on our three sets of historic nave doors, work that is overdue. This will result in doors that are easier to operate and provide greater security. We will also be improving lighting in our courtyard, parking area, and other exterior spaces.

Smaller projects we hope to complete in the next year include installing a water bottle filling station in the foyer and purchasing and installing an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED). Before the end of my term ('24), I hope to develop a building manual that compiles information on how to operate our facility's systems and our preventative maintenance processes, an important tool for the next people responsible for our buildings.

Like most endeavors, it takes a village. First, I would like to thank Martha Huizenga, my Manciple, for sharing the workload and independently managing much needed projects as well as Jim Pittman, Junior Warden, '19-'22, for leaving the building in great shape and for continuing to help with repairs. Michael Gravlee, Parish Administrator, has been invaluable fixing things when they break and in scheduling and managing our contractors. Charlie Rupp freely shares his knowledge of the building and stepped up with his expertise of building's fabric when problems arose. I thank Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea for keeping the Harris Kitchen/Baxter Hall area tidy and lending a helping hand when asked. Kathryn Powers has worked hard to keep our courtyard and gardens looking great, and members of the '20s & '30s group have volunteered to help with snow removal. And I would like to thank my Fabric Committee, Martha Huizenga (Manciple), former Junior Wardens Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Peter Eveleth, Jim Pittman, Jack Richards, Charlie Rupp, Michael Summey, as well as John Edwards, Don Gangloff, and

Melissa Zimmerman for their advice and counsel. Finally, I would like to thank Rev's Michele and Chris for their encouragement and support.

**Columbaria** Penny Hansen, Doris Burton, Coordinators

According to "The Organization St. Mark's Church"<sup>1</sup> 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 sales and Doris orders plaques for the chapel and high altar structures.

**Nave Columbarium** constructed in the 1970s, consists of 75 fully subscribed niches. The bronze plaques are fabricated by Matthews International foundry in Pittsburgh, PA, and take up to 6 months to complete. If your niche requires a plaque, please contact the coordinator at [dmburton21@gmail.com](mailto:dmburton21@gmail.com). SignCraft of Annapolis is available to fabricate urns to fit these niches.

**Chapel Columbarium** is an integral part of the Chapel of the Nazarene, originally consecrated in 1931 and re-consecrated in 2010 (for a complete history of the columbaria, see Annual Report 2016.) It contains 196 niches of which 75 are currently available at a cost of \$1500 each. 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. (see page 49 for a photo)

To purchase a niche, please contact the coordinator at [pennyhansn@aol.com](mailto:pennyhansn@aol.com)

<sup>1</sup>This document can be found in the Vestry file and in the archives and has been updated as policies and procedures have changed.



*Our parish banner, designed and fabricated by English fabric artist, Jackie Binns.*

<b>MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY MARCH 2022-FEBRUARY 2023</b>	
Key: RA: Rector's Action    SWA: Senior Warden Action    VA: Vestry Action Date of action is listed by month-year (03-13=March 2013)	
VA03-22	Approved: Matt Ossolinski appointed to a 4-year term (Endowment Board)
	Approved: creation of a temporarily restricted fund for the STM book club <sup>1</sup>
	Approved: engaging Michael Febrey to conduct an audit in 2022
VA04-22	Approved: election of officers: Randy Marks, Treasurer (eff. 5/5); Bill Jordan, Assistant Treasurer; Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer of Special Gifts and Bequests (eff. 5/5)
	Approved: issuance of debit card to Martha Huizenga as Manciple
	Approved: application re participation in Tending Our Soil initiative
VA05-22	Approved Summer Youth Service Trip Fundraiser
	Approved: Frank Nickerson: signing & all other necessary authority for Vanguard accounts from previous role as Treasurer to new role as Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests
	Approved: Father's Day Fundraiser to benefit Ukraine
	Approved: Frank Nickerson appointment as Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests to Stewardship Committee replacing Martha Huizenga
VA06-22	Approved: Treasurer fully invest the Operating Reserve Fund and the Building Reserve in the Vanguard Star Accounts as soon as accounts are established; Finance Committee will recommend, by February '23, whether to invest the remaining half of the funds in three-month increments or modify the investment strategy; Vestry to determine case-by-case whether to invest future gifts or other increases in the reserve funds in the Star Fund or retain in the checking account
VA07-22	Approved: 2022 Annual Pledge Campaign: Nora Howell, co-chair; Linell Grundman, Raiford Gaffney, Matt Dodge, Kenn Allen, Frank Nickerson, Christopher Berendes to serve from Aug 1, '22 to Feb 28, '23
	Approved: 20 adjustments to the 2022 Budget
VA08-22	Approved: support the goals of the Canvass campaign
	Approved: Equal Employment Opportunity Statement of Purpose
VA09-22	Approved: 2021 Audit
	Approved: Navajoland Partnership Temporary Restricted Fund
VA10-22	Approved: Shay Waye as Register
	Approved: Vassar/Haiti Art Show
	Approved: Middle East Working Group Advent sale of olivewood/olive Oil
VA11-22	Approved: Annual Meeting be held on March 5
	Approved: Membership Charter
RA12-22	Rector accepted the resignation of Senior Warden Linell Grundman
VA12-22	Approved: Resignation of Fritz Henn
VA12-22	Approved: appointment of Louise Walsh to fill seat of Mr. Henn
	Approved: appointment of Louise Walsh as Senior Warden til March annual meeting
	Approved reinstatement of Fritz Henn to the Vestry
VA01-23	Approved: Tabled January minutes to February meeting due to technical issues

<sup>1</sup>A fund to hold the monies for the club. Any funds remaining should the club cease to operate will revert to the Vestry account

## PARISH FINANCES

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** *Treasurer Randy Marks (chair); Assistant Treasurer, Bill Jordan; Assistant Treasurer (Special Gifts & Bequests), Frank Nickerson; Rev. Michele Morgan, Senior Warden Linell Grundman (to 12/22) Senior Warden Louise Walsh (1-3-2023), Junior Warden Dave Wellman, Vestry Liaison Hank Donnelly; Kenn Allen, Tricia Eisner, Raiford Gaffney, Parish Finance Administrator Annick Milde (Feb 2022), and Mary Cooper, Recorder.*

*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.

*Results* Although we ended the year with a nominal surplus, there are some warning sign

- Pledge income (primary income source) was below budget. We achieved “balance” due to one-time factors:
  - \*Other Income (Special Offerings, Bequests, Clergy Discretionary Contributions) that is either unpredictable or unlikely to be as high in 2023.
  - \*A major tenant that is leaving (Montessori School)
  - \*A large transfer from Reserves.

We did a good job controlling expenses.

- The Outreach expenses over budget is not a concern because a lot came from generous contributions from our members that the Outreach Board then spent. (See below on how we are accounting for our Outreach activities). Under the strong leadership of Linda Staheli and Julie Murphy, the Outreach Board came in at its budget.
- Parochial Ministry (most programs) came in low. That reflects both competent stewardship (good) and lower than expected activity levels (not as good).
- Administration and Property are the hardest areas to control because some bills are unexpected and essential (think boiler repair on Christmas Eve and legal fees).

Yet we were only slightly over budget.

	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>Actual vs Budget</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Pledge Income	\$785,822	92%	\$856,000
Other Income	\$254,510	184%	\$135,285
Transfer from Reserves	\$141,307	100%	\$141,751
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,181,639</b>	104%	<b>\$1,137,466</b>
Compensation	\$638,708	104%	\$615,831
Parochial Ministry	\$42,748	62%	\$69,871
Outside Ministry	\$146,409	115%	\$126,832
Administration	\$77,199	105%	\$73,810
Property	\$207,969	99%	\$209,075
Sabbatical/Building Reserves	\$22,557	68%	\$33,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,135,589</b>	101%	<b>\$1,128,419</b>

**2023 Budget** Vestry approved on January 31.

	<b>Requests</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
Pledge Income	NA	\$809,000
Other Income	NA	\$128,720
Transfer from Reserves	NA	\$111,380
<b>Total Income</b>	NA	<b>\$1,049,100</b>
Compensation	\$695,676	\$659,809
Parochial Ministry	\$83,680	\$36,245
Outside Ministry	\$126,800	\$72,717
Administration	\$67,240	\$65,329
Property	\$253,700	\$215,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,227,096</b>	<b>\$1,049,100</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	NA	<b>\$0</b>

**Financial Operations**

- We received a *clean* audit from our auditors for our 2021 financial statements, meaning they accurately reflected the church’s financial condition and results.
- With Vestry approval, we invested some of our reserves in the higher return Vanguard Star Fund.
- The Vestry established Temporary Restricted Fund accounts for Pastoral Care, the Book Club, and the Navajoland Partnership (funded by remaining Extended Vision Campaign funds).
- We oversaw expenses for Michele’s sabbatical. We budgeted \$23,000 and spent \$22,557. These expenses were paid out of the Sabbatical Reserve Fund.
- We transitioned from our former accounting firm to a new one.
- We provided general advice re: goals for the canvass and stewardship.
- We created a more coherent way of accounting for Outreach expenses:
  - \*Until this year, Outreach expenditures were recorded in a variety of ways: some were treated as Outreach Expenses while others were treated as “Special Donations” (Afghan Refugees) or pass-through accounts (Mite Box). Some were recognized on our financial statements and some were invisible.
  - \*With the support of the Outreach Board, we adopted the principle that all Outreach expenses should be on our financial statements so the parish knows how much it is spending to help the world.
  - \*Applying that principle, we now account for outreach expenditures as follows:
    - The Outreach Board, which operates on a Vestry allocation, is a separate line item.
    - As before, we track the Middle Eastern Working Group income and expenses through their own line items.
    - We created new accounts to track Parishioner donations that help the world:
      - \*\*Outreach collection income (ex. Mite Box contributions/future special collections).
      - \*\*Restricted Outreach expenses (shows how those contributions were spent).

## 2023 Goals

1. Support efforts to create a culture of ongoing stewardship through greater transparency and engagement.
2. Seek to determine whether the decline in pledge income is a result of temporary economic conditions as opposed to a longer-term trend of lower church attendance and engagement.
3. Rigorously monitor expenses to ensure that we meet the tight budget that the Vestry approved.
4. Recruit additional Finance Committee members to provide for an orderly transition to a successor Treasurer.

**CANVASS** *Linell Grundman and Nora Howell, Co-chairs; The Rev. Michele Morgan, Christopher Berendes, Raiford Gaffney, Matt Dodge, Frank Nickerson, Kenn Allen; assistance from The Rev. Chris Phillips, Annick Milde (Financial Officer) and Michael Gravlee (Parish Administrator)*

COVID hit the parish hard in 2020 but, by the summer of 2022, the church had reopened for services and was in the process of returning to our pre-COVID level of live events. That brought up the image of homecoming which then was expanded on for our vision for the campaign: The Power of Homecoming: Welcoming, Community, Giving\*.

Linell Grundman, co-chair and Senior Warden, knew we needed to do something different from the past years –we needed to have a lot of ways to reach out to everyone! Therefore, our campaign involved a telephone reach-out in advance of the campaign, presence at the parish fair in early September, a formal kickoff in late September, three town hall meetings each with a focus on one of the three elements\* of the vision statement, and lots of speeches, calls, eGospel articles, and letters.

This is the status of the campaign as of February 23:

YEAR	PLEDGE UNITS	PLEDGE TOTAL	NEW PLEDGES	OUT OF TOWN
2022	254	\$857,045	5	17
2023	238	\$840,230	19	14

**MEMBERSHIP** *Jeb Ory (Chair & Vestry Liaison), Todd Thorpe, Jeremy Sierra, Randy Marks, Kenn Allen*

We re-activated the Membership Committee towards the end of 2022 to create a more vibrant community. While Covid opened up many exciting new ways to connect remotely (Zoom, anyone?!), one of the challenges was that people fell out of the habit of regularly convening in person.

Covid seemed to accelerate a general downward trend in membership (also felt in declining pledge dollars), creating some tough headwinds to investing in growing the church's reach, impact, and ability to minister to those in need.

Fortunately, we have already started programs, large and small, to address, and hopefully, turn decline into growth. We laid out some ambitious plans to bring membership levels up to, and in excess of levels from the 2010s. We are doing this by measuring activities that lead to growth and putting place programs to reach, engage with, and connect new members to programs that they might be of interest in the church.

We hope you notice the welcome table in the foyer and you will start to see manifestations of new activities, including door knockers and yard signs, new banners, collateral highlighting those things that make us stand out on Capitol Hill and beyond. We are making progress online too, with a renewed approach to reaching and engaging people on Facebook and plans to kick off a project to upgrade the website in the future.

Hopefully, you will also notice a growing presence of kids which also touches other elements of the church's ministry! Between a vibrant Sunday school program, an exciting children's choir program, and an expanding focus on youth and families, we are making progress in connecting more parents and children with St. Mark's programs.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** *Rev. Michele Morgan, interim Chair; Louise Walsh, Senior Warden; Kenn Allen, Mary Cooper, Raiford Gaffney, Bill Jordan, Karen Wiedemann*

From our Charter: *The committee is responsible for developing and overseeing the overall stewardship efforts within the community, ensuring coherence and continuity of message, and ensuring that the various stewardship efforts are coordinated logically.*

The committee's charge is to oversee what we are doing too much at any one time around funds and fundraising. We do that by taking a 10,000-foot view of the whole of the finances of the parish. Thus, we are able to say yes to fundraisers and set a schedule for when they may happen. (ed. note: see website for Application for Fundraiser and Report on Fundraiser)

We would like to engage more fully in three areas: encouraging membership, a more active canvass, and extending hospitality to make year-round connections to the people of St. Marks.

Our committee is looking for a chair and a few more members.

**ENDOWMENT** *Kim Bayliss & Karen Wiedemann, Co-Chairs, Matt Ossolinski (Architect), Michael Summey (Treasurer), Malissa Zimmerman (Secretary); ex officio members: the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Parish Treasurer.*

The Endowment was created by the Vestry in 2002 and 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 assets 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 2022, the fund had an annual return of -18.0% (slightly better than the -19.4% return on the S&P 500).

Each year an amount of each fund available for distributions is calculated based on 5% of the 3-year rolling average of the fund's valuation as of December 31 of each year. Available amounts that are not distributed in a given calendar year accrue and remain available for distribution in subsequent years. The sum of these two amounts—5% of the average fund valuation plus all accrued and undistributed amounts from prior years—constitutes the "distributable amount" of each fund. This method of disbursement computation is the most commonly used method in the non-profit world.

### Description of Funds

**Building Preservation Fund:** Est. 1998 from sale of the rectory, provides for improvements to church facilities.

**Hoitsma Fund:** Est. 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this fund provides for long-term building improvements not covered by the operating budget (ed. Ralph Hoitsma, JW 1965-68 and SW 1968-71)

**General Fund:** This fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the church.

**Verna Dozier Fund:** Est. 2000 from funds donated but not needed for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory. 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(s).

**Craighill Dance Fund:** Est. 1984 from a gift from the Craighill family to support the St. Mark's Dance Studio. Includes the Beryl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for promising dancers (ed. daughter of the late Dr. Bertha Martin)

**Arts Fund:** Est. 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's.

**Holtkamp Organ Fund:** Est. 1998, provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. The Music Director requests disbursements.

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.

FUND	2022 ACTIVITY	12/31/22 BALANCE	2023 DISTRIBUTABLE AMOUNTS
<b>Building Preservation</b>	\$25,000 received from Vestry (from previous years' budget surplus)	\$267,458	\$45,876
<b>Hoitsma</b>	–	\$224,377	\$59,297
<b>General</b>	–	\$170,631	\$58,067
<b>Dozier Scholarship</b>	\$5,000: scholarships	\$ 66,359	\$15,161
<b>Craighill Dance</b>	–	\$221,221	\$66,981
<b>Arts Fund</b>	\$2,346; reframe <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	\$ 82,104	\$41,928
<b>Holtkamp Organ</b>	–	\$51,938	\$23,320

The Endowment Board's email address is 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.

**LEGACY LIONS** *Kenn Allen*

The Legacy Lions were launched 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 16 legacy gifts totaling \$1,591,750. These gifts have enabled us to replace the Lexan covering on the nave windows with tempered glass, develop the 3<sup>rd</sup> street garden, formerly known as the "3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2022 from Nancy Bryant on behalf of the estate of Don Sarles and from the estate of Don Mosher. 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.52.

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP** *Thia Hamilton & Christopher Berendes, Co-Chairs; Pamela Blumgart, Andrew Stafford, Members.*

As in previous years, the CWG performed weekly updates of announcements and events to keep *stmarks.net* in sync with the E-gospel and with the announcements distributed on Sundays. We improved our support of parishioners and friends participating remotely in worship and town halls. We provided stable, friendly web links for Sunday services, memorials (now generally live-streamed), and the canvass/stewardship forums.

Other 2022 projects:

- Refreshing the home page slider and other parts of the website with up-to-date photos from the community, notably the Banner Sunday posters;
- A landing page introducing our neighbors to our Christmas pageant and other holiday services to support the Membership Committee's mid-December door-knocker distribution on Capitol Hill;
- A page to track the guest preachers who spoke during Michele's sabbatical and show their sermons afterward;
- The Advent Art show
- Keeping parishioners and friends updated regarding Covid-19 policy changes as they evolved.

*stmarks.net* received 27,000 visits in 2022, down from 34,000 visits in 2021. In 2022, that amounted to about 520 visits per week. 2021 weekly visits ran slightly higher, except for the last two weeks in March, which brought the site 2600 more visits in 2021 than in 2022.

**DIOCESIAN DELEGATION** *Ruth Roman, Tom Getman, Mary Neznec, Lay Delegates;*

*The Rev. Michele Morgan, The Rev. Christopher Phillips, The Rev. Patricia Catalano, Clerical Delegates.*

The 2022 Diocesan 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 has included two large and active zoom and live delegate gatherings attended by Mary and Tom to continue the study of reparations in churches where there is a legacy of using the labor of enslaved people. Our delegates also raised the issue of needed attention to Native American tribal lands upon which some of our churches and schools are built. 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 (and other) refugees arriving to our region, learning new skills to connect to one another.”

The Bishop’s Inspiring challenge to the January 28, 2023 Diocese Convention underscored the previous year with the theme, “We Must Now Take the Next Faithful Step in how we follow Jesus. If we do it with conviction, we will do it guided by the Spirit with diligence and devotion”. EG: we will find ourselves regarding reparations with people who face the Way of the Cross. She suggested three strategic priorities: 1) Inspiring people to grow in faith in God’s presence when we are stretched while offering hospitality and being able to tell the story of Jesus; 2) Revitalizing our congregations especially in partnership with those who are struggling across our regions, and; 3) Serving while practicing equity and justice to affect greater impact with joy in the challenges of climate change, racial injustice, and migrant and refugee needs.

At the 2022 gathering, six resolutions were reviewed, evaluated, and slightly amended before being adopted and submitted to the June 2022 General Convention in Baltimore (delegates elected to represent each diocese in the US church.) It is an indirect process but the strong vote of more than 70% of our DC delegates was an important indicator of sentiment. Four were subsequently passed by the General Convention (GC).

The DC Diocesan Resolution recognizing Israel’s discriminatory legal system and treatment of Palestinians was approved. It corresponds to the definition of apartheid elaborated in the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It is set out in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. However, the General Convention postponed condemnation of Israel’s apartheid system while recognizing the complicity of US government in supporting and protecting Israel in Apartheid practices against Palestinians. (Lead Sponsor, Thomas Getman, co-sponsors Mary Neznec along with many delegates from other congregations.)

Given the controversy in mid 2022 around the “apartheid” designation it was determined best for postponement for final consideration in the 2024 GC. (The Resolution on Apartheid was actually approved in content but with the word “apartheid” excised. The result was the Diocese of Olympia (Washington) version was approved without the word while clearly addressing the discrimination against non-Jewish Arab Israelis that is consistent with the International Law definition of systemic discrimination based on race or religion). It appears now with the UN and major human rights organizations having declared Israel an apartheid state, and with the Israeli government’s recent rightward shift, chances are improved that the original Resolution will pass. Apartheid is after all antithetical to the Gospel message of equality of all God’s children, and The Resolution does seem to join the growing global consensus. It is scheduled to be reintroduced and reconsidered in 2024.

Another resolution that passed the DC convention was introduced by Rev. Sari Ateek of St. John’s+Norwood and cosponsored by delegates Neznec and Getman. It describes “end-times Christian Zionism as a heresy”. Also, it was postponed for “further study” and is expected to be re-introduced with improved chances at the 2024 General Convention in Louisville (KY)

The convention was presented with two joy-inducing resolutions consistent with the bishop’s appeal for embracing “collective goals:

**Resolution 1: Toward Repentance and Reparations in the Washington Diocese:** “The Diocese acknowledges its long, complicated history of participation in, and benefit from anti-racism, and commits to continue uncovering and sharing that history. The Diocese now publicly confesses and repents of its participation in anti-Black racism,

apologizes for the harms done against the Black community...and commits to make reparation with the acknowledgment that the injuries and harms from 400 years of abuse can never be fully healed." Congregations are commended that have studied "Sacred Ground" and made the commitment to "God's dream of the Beloved Community" and the next steps toward restitution. (Lead Sponsor the Rev. Peter Antoci, St. Thomas+Dupont Circle, along with 20 others). It passed unanimously including St. Mark's 3 clergy and 3 lay delegates, and who will continue to support the work of the newly established Committee on Diocesan Reparations.

There was discussion and an amendment defeated, around the idea of having meeting notes made public before decisions on reparations. It was decided that requirement would compromise transparency in discussion and honest expression about the form reparations would take.

**Resolution 2: On Planting Trees to Celebrate Special Occasions:** "This Resolution seeks to encourage parishes, schools and other church organizations in the Diocese to plant trees in celebration of special occasions as a symbol of our love of all God's creation and as an act of environmental justice for all." This is a foundational feature of the Communion Forest [www.communionforest.org](http://www.communionforest.org) and the endorsement by the 2022 Lambeth Conference by the worldwide Anglican Communion; i.e. "To plant, care for, and safeguard native trees." (Submitted by Abbott McCartney and Joanne Hutton, St. John's+Lafayette Square, along with co-sponsors St. Dunstan's, St. Nicholas'+Darnestown, Epiphany+DC, Creation Care Committee, and Southern Africa Link Committee). This resolution passed unanimously. Parishes will be required to report annually on the number of trees planted.

We also rejoice in God's grace shed on the St. Mark's community as the convention elected one of our number, Mary Nezek, as a Deputy to the 2024 General Convention. Thanks to all for your support to our service as delegates.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEES** *Betsy Athey, Chair*

These have been assisting our clergy, wardens, seminarians and staff since 1975. They are composed of a lay convenor and usually 6 parishioners who represent a microcosm of our community, are connected to parish life, and serve generally a 2-year term. Each committee supports a leader by offering to be 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.

In 2022 there were three active Advisory Committees:

**Senior Warden's Advisory Committee** (Susan Thompson, *Convenor*)

**Junior Warden's Advisory Committee** (*Fabric Committee*)

**Seminarian's Advisory Committee** (Rita Ossolinski, *Convenor*)

**Assistant Rector's Advisory Committee** (Began in February 2022. Greg Niblett, *Convenor*)

If you are interested in being considered to serve, contact the Chair at [atheylloyd@comcast.net](mailto:atheylloyd@comcast.net).

#### **ELDERS** *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, Conveners*

This group includes 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 remain in contact and many continue to be deeply involved in church activities.

In June, we convened to enjoy our annual dinner with spouses. A conversation arose concerning the need for new worship planning. A follow-up workshop continued the conversation at an August gathering of those interested, culminating in a Pilot Project which envisioned lay, clergy and the Director of Music working together in teams to produce 6 new worship services during January-March 2023. This will be followed by a review and edits to the plan we hope to see in action later this year.

#### **RACE AND RECONCILIATION** *inactive*

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

**SABBATICAL COMMITTEE** *Louise Walsh & Kenn Allen, co-chairs; Charmian Crawford, Nancy Lucas, John-Anthony Meza, members (AKA: Sabbatical Advisory Committee)*

**Background** The concept of clergy sabbaticals is well established in the Canons of the Episcopal Church, defined as “a period of rest and an intermission in labor.” In practical terms, per national church sources, “The purpose of the sabbatical is for the renewal and growth of the ordained minister with the expectation that the parish will benefit greatly as a result of the re-invigorated and refreshed clerical leader.” It is an affirmative expectation that parishes will plan and provide for sabbaticals for clergy.

We have experienced three clergy sabbaticals: four by Jim Adams (10th rector) during his 30 years with us, and one by Paul Abernathy (11th). In each case, the parish invested in advance planning and supporting the rector in his personal planning for how the sabbatical period would be used, developing plans for how the work and parish programs would be managed, providing for appropriate processes for leave-taking and return, and documenting and learning from the experience of the parish.

It is important to note that the person going on sabbatical is empowered to develop his/her own plan and is not expected to return with a specific “product”. Thus, it is differentiated from many academic and professional sabbaticals in which there is an expectation of such a result. Rather, clergy/parishes are encouraged to both reflect on and share their experiences and to invite but not require clergy to do likewise. The goal is the renewed energy and creativity with which the clergy will return.

We were pleased to offer our 12<sup>th</sup> rector, Michele Morgan, the opportunity for her first sabbatical in 2022. The purpose of this report is to summarize our collective experience of that period.

**Leadership Preparation for the Sabbatical** Initial leadership came from Senior Warden Linell Grundman soon after her election, beginning with consultations with Michele. Linell was thorough in her research and preparation prior to bringing the proposal to the Vestry for their approval: researching overall church expectations for clergy sabbaticals, consulting with our diocese on their specific guidelines, and reviewing our history of sabbaticals.

Linell invited Louise Walsh and Kenn Allen, former senior wardens, to serve as co-chairs of the committee and, on their recommendation and with Michele’s concurrence, added Charmian Crawford, Nancy Lucas and John-Anthony Meza as members

Linell’s proposal for the sabbatical was presented to and approved by the Vestry, November 2021. It called for a four-month paid sabbatical, beginning just after Easter and ending just before Labor Day, with a stipend of \$10,000 to support extraordinary expenses Michele might incur. In April ’22, the treasurer reported an additional \$5,000 to support costs associated with guest preachers, for honoraria and travel expenses. All sabbatical-related funds were to be drawn from a reserve fund established specifically to support sabbaticals.

**Planning and Preparation Prior to the Sabbatical** In broad terms, the work of the team fell into three areas:

- Supporting Michele, in whatever ways and to whatever extent she wished, in developing her own plans for her sabbatical;
- Working in close consultation with parish leaders – wardens and officers, pillar chairs, staff and others – to develop a comprehensive plan for how the work of the parish would get done during the sabbatical period and, as appropriate, helping to implement that plan;
- Creating and implementing ways to capture the experience of and learnings from the sabbatical and how they can be most productively beneficial to the parish going forward.

The co-chairs took the lead, consulting with Michele about how she would prepare for the sabbatical, both as rector and personally. On the former, we encouraged and supported her delineation of her specific responsibilities and what would need to be covered by others during her absence. That led to consultations with Linell, Chris Phillips, and Patricia Catalano about how that work would be covered in her absence. In keeping with the parish ethos, much of that consultation was informal with specific issues launching reflection and discussion. We also talked with

her about her own expectations and plans, recognizing that the time away was hers to design and only to share with us as she saw fit, the extent she wished our reaction and input.

The co-chairs also met regularly with Linell, Chris and Patricia, individually and together, to discuss how they saw their roles evolving and the specific additional responsibilities they would need to undertake during Michele's absence. Ultimately, close coordination and collaborative problem-solving among those three contributed significantly to the overall success within the parish.

Critical elements of preparation were interviews conducted by the Sabbatical Committee with parish leaders. More than 30 interviews were conducted, analyzed and summarized. Participants were asked to reflect on their concerns, its impact on their roles and work plans, and the opportunities it might open for them. Vestry members were invited to be interviewed if they wished but none did so.

The results contributed directly to a "Q&A" exercise in which the committee drafted questions and issues that arose during the interviews and from their own reflections and discussions. They met with changing combinations of the four principals –Linell, Michele, Chris, and Patricia – to work through the issues to clarify who would do what and how potential issues would be handled during the sabbatical. This was particularly beneficial in clarifying roles and responsibilities during Michele's absence.

Sunday, January 23, the committee organized and managed Rector's Forums after each service to present the plans for the sabbatical and to invite questions, concerns, and observations. An FAQ was distributed. The response was uniformly positive with participants expressing their support for the concept and the hopes and tentative plans Michele outlined for her time away.

Michele's last day in the pulpit was Easter April 17 and her last day in the office was Friday, April 22. Saturday, April 23, the Vestry hosted a send-off brunch in the courtyard with a wide variety of food brought by parishioners, with activities for children, brief remarks and a rousing chorus of cheers as she departed!

**During the Sabbatical** The committee was responsible for identifying, inviting and supporting guest preachers. The goal was to bring a diversity of voices and perspectives to the pulpit and to ensure Chris and Patricia were able to focus on other clerical, pastoral and program responsibilities. There was close consultation with Chris, Patricia, and Linell with input from Michele prior to her departure. Members of the committee extended invitations, were the liaisons to the guests, and served as their hosts during their time with us.

The final line-up of guest preachers alongside our clergy well displayed our tradition of hearing and reflecting on a diversity of voices and perspectives alongside our own clergy. The guest preachers were:

May 8 **Loretta Veney**, a long-time parishioner. She is an inspirational speaker and trainer in the areas of dementia, caregiving and aging. She is a trained Lego Serious Play (LSP) facilitator, focusing on helping organizations improve teamwork and productivity.

May 29 **Rev. Joe Hubbard** was our seminarian while at Virginia Theological Seminary and ordained a deacon while at St. Mark's and priested in Navajoland. He is currently Vicar at St. Christopher's Episcopal Mission, Bluff, Utah, part of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland.

June 12 **Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas** is the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, holding the Bill and Judith Moyers Chair in Theology there. She is considered a leader in the field of womanist theology, racial reconciliation, social justice, and sexuality and the Black church.

June 26 **The Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson** was in the pulpit. Bishop Robinson is the retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, the first openly gay priest to be consecrated bishop in the Episcopal Church and serves as bishop-in-residence at St. Thomas+Dupont Circle.

July 3 **Caitlin Fraser**, former parishioner and choir member, is a Postulant for Holy Orders at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

July 17 **Imam Talib M. Shareef**, President and Imam of the historic Nation's Mosque, Masjid Muhammad in

Washington, DC. He has served as Imam in five U.S. cities, seven military locations around the world, and has had a distinguished career at home and abroad. He co-organized, spoke and led the historic Islamic congregational prayer at the Washington National Cathedral and offered the opening prayer on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's March on Washington.

July 24 **Rabbi Hannah Spiro**, "I'm Hannah Spiro and I'm a rabbi, singer-songwriter, and mom. My music is lyrical, folksy, and peppy, and loves being sung in synagogues, coffeehouses, and cars." <https://hannahspiro.com/> Now rabbi of Hill Havurah, Capitol Hill, she is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia, PA.

July 31 **Rev. Jim Steen** served as our Interim Rector between Adams-Abernathy rectorships. He and his partner, Tom Chesrow, made a significant contribution to the life and vitality of our parish. Jim went on to become rector at St. Paul & the Redeemer+Chicago, then Director of Ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, responsible for congregational and leadership development in 130 congregations. As a retiree, he serves part-time/second clergy at Grace Episcopal+ Holland, Michigan. As it was Crab Sunday, Jim was delighted to be made an "Honorary Crab."

August 28 **Linell Grundman**, Senior Warden

**Hazel Monae**, Missioner for Equity & Justice, Episcopal Diocese of Washington was originally scheduled but left for a new position and could not join us

The committee also was responsible for being available to Linell and Chris as needed to support their work, discuss issues and modifying plans as required. This was done very informally and spontaneously as no serious and only minor operational issues arose.

**After the Sabbatical** Michele returned to her office late August and to the pulpit at a single service on September 4. The parish welcomed her back with a Middle Eastern mezza lunch.

Primary responsibility for bringing Michele up to date on the parish rested with Linell and Chris. We met with Michele early in her return, primarily to check in on how her time away had been and how she was feeling (rested and enthusiastic to return to work).

To conclude the sabbatical, the committee re-interviewed 20 of the original group. The focus was on those who had been actively engaged in parish leadership and management. Because the bulk of the period was over the summer months and recovery from the COVID shutdown was still underway, many normal parish activities were curtailed and there was no impact of the sabbatical in those areas.

The overall takeaways from the post-sabbatical interviews were positive. There was a sense that things had gone well, that there were no major problems, that lay and clergy leadership had been strong and effective and, as one leader put it, "The community was coming together with a focus on moving forward, doing things."

It went very well with no major disruptions. "In my experience, the systems necessary for supporting our work were in place and things went as planned." "The church kept going." "A success was that there wasn't much to report...It didn't feel like a radical departure." "The parish is resilient. The absence of the leader can create confusion but that didn't happen."

Summer months should be part of future sabbatical as it is a time when "everything slows down." At the same time, in this particular year, the "negative is we were opening up and her presence may have helped get people back." There also seemed to be agreement that the length was right. "The positive impact was that it was not interruptive."

New/renewed appreciation emerged for the role Michele plays in her role as rector. "The sabbatical reminded us of what we have in Michele, her strengths, and not to focus on what she isn't." "It made me appreciate the role Michele plays, both up front and quietly behind the scenes. We needed her calming hand." "She had already given us her blessing to carry on as part of our [program] efforts." Her absence reinforced a critical role rectors play: "It is important to have the final decision-maker present. With difficult decisions, [we] couldn't protect all of the constituencies." There also was recognition of "how heavy Michele's job is...a complex role" that can be too much for a person to do because St. Mark's is "so complex, with so much to do, so many projects."

“There was solid supportive recognition of the role Chris played during the sabbatical, working in partnership with lay leadership. “Chris was on top of it and was very supportive and flexible.” He showed “such grace in weathering storms that came his way.” At the same time, there was appreciation for how it may have been difficult for Chris, a relatively newly ordained priest, to be placed in this role so early in his tenure in the parish.

There also was a recognition of the importance of an effective partnership between clergy and lay leaders. “We are a stronger community if we can embrace more fully the concept of “shared ministry” with the clergy supporting and advocating for lay leadership and with the laity supporting clergy in their demanding roles. We believe that strong lay leadership and volunteerism in running our programs coupled with keen interest and support from the clergy makes us a stronger church.” From another perspective, “The church is not the building but the people. As long as there are devoted people, we can sustain it...The commitment of the people is there. [St. Mark’s] is the fabric that connects people.”

There could have been much more “granular discussion” in advance re who was going to make what decision. Some lack of clarity was perceived “who was running the parish.” It was suggested that there should have been a meeting of all of the pillars, clergy, and committee to discuss the sabbatical and its implications for the programs and the worship services. There was a sense that various leaders were operating in silos. There was a suggestion that the worship pillar should have been more a part of the overall planning of the sabbatical, perhaps with representation on the sabbatical team. It was suggested that calendaring needs to be done in advance of any future sabbaticals.

The staff held together well as a team. Chris played a critical role in that and in getting the work done. He “was on top of it and was very supportive and flexible. The leadership team met throughout. The process worked as it was supposed to.” The status quo was maintained with regard to the sense of interdependence of staff with “no life-boat mentality.”

Christian Education leaders offered specific comments/suggestions about support they need from clergy going forward: ““While we feel lay leadership can sustain this program for a while, the active participation of the clergy is necessary, especially in promotion, recruitment and teaching more with lay leaders, but most importantly in advocating for a strong CE program. If clergy directly appealed to younger members of the parish to become involved and be active in CE, it would make a difference. We are not capitalizing on the opportunity, through classes, to build community, forge relationships, and enhance our intergenerational connectedness

The Christian Ed leaders echoed feedback from other interviewees and from parishioners generally, the importance and value of the guest preachers who brought new perspectives and different preaching styles to the pulpit. There have been suggestions that we might continue to periodically have guest preachers, particularly from different faith traditions.

There was a strong sense that the parish worked together to make the sabbatical work. “The community was coming together with a focus on moving forward, doing things.” “It was nice to see so many pitch in to make the time seem seamless.” “I think it reflects the strength of the lay leadership. Jim Adams once said that the congregation was not the flock but the shepherd. That is the unique attribute of St. Mark’s.”

The Sabbatical Committee has great appreciation for the leadership demonstrated throughout the entire process by Michele, Linell, Chris, Patricia and the members of the staff. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be part of this important moment in St. Mark’s history.

Finally, as is our custom, the committee will be de-commissioned later this spring.



*Rev. Chris Phillips & Bishop Robinson*



## REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

**WORSHIP** *Doris Burton*, Convener (til Dec 31); Treasurer *Stephanie Deutsch*; Laying on of Hands *open*; Livestream *David Deutsch, Charlie Rupp*; Head Verger *Josie Jordan*; Acolytes *Doris Burton (9 & 11:15)*; Co-Sacristans *Susan Ryerson, Doris Burton*; Ushers *open*; Bread & Wine *open (9), Marshall Thorpe (11:15)*; Chalice Bearers *to be re-established*; Readers Guild *Maureen Shea (9), Andrew Stafford (11)*; Morning Prayer *Chris Berendes & Elin Whitney-Smith*, Compline *cancelled*

The Committee is undergoing major changes as we continue rebuilding from the Covid shut-down. Currently, there is no committee, ergo, no meetings other than among the sub-groups.

**Liturgy Planning** suffered from a lack of parishioner involvement for much of spring '22, to the extent that the chair, recognizing how significant this is, held a 'listening session' March 30 via Zoom (only 6 participated) to discuss possible solutions. A report was sent to the clergy (in the Worship file). The single most-frequently expressed concern was over the loss of distributing communion to a circle of parishioners. The chair also attended the Vestry retreat, reporting on the session, and suggesting a broader forum be held to gather more opinions.

Town meetings were held mid-May following each service. The comments were collated and passed to Jan Lipscomb, Vestry liaison. These, too, are in the Worship file. The town meetings were so well received that a decision was made to broaden the reach further by using the comments to create a parish survey, something not done since 2004.

Doris obtained a copy of the last parish-wide survey (2004; in Worship File) which did not focus on worship but provided general questions included by Doris, Jeff Kempksie and Marika Klein along with questions formulated from the town meeting comments. The survey went out to the entire parish at the end of October. The results are were collated by Marika and presented to the clergy and staff, the wardens, Membership Chair as well as Doris before being presented to the parish later this spring.

At the annual Elders' Dinner in June, the issue was discussed and, under the leadership of Betsy Athey, a group was organized to design a proposal for re-invigorating parishioner involvement. Their report was submitted to Rev. Morgan and, after a conversation, a pilot period was set.

*From Betsy Athey:* The pilot project provided novel and creative liturgies for four weekly services in January and February with two planned for March 5 and 12. Most Sundays included all 3 service times. The "shared ministry" effort consists of 4 diverse teams of 5-6 lay members in collaboration with clergy and the music director. Feedback questionnaires included in the bulletins have yielded 137 overwhelmingly-favorable responses to date. After these, the clergy and proposal group will determine the future of the plan. Parishioner comments will impact the final decisions.

**Christmas Eve:** Greening was again a group effort with the most notable change being the location of the Advent wreath. Out of concern for safety, a group relocated it, set on a plywood base, to the baptismal font. While the candles were lit per tradition, it was no longer the focus of the season. Decorations were minimal and chaired by Lisa Ramish.

The pageant was, once again, 'live' and held at 4 pm. The festival service was earlier than previously—at 9 pm preceded by 30 min of congregational caroling. The service opened with Logan Clark singing a cappella "Once in Royal David's City" with the congregation and organ joining on the second verse. The work done in 2021 on lighting was used to great effect this year by having one verger on the light board and one managing the service. "Silent Night" by candlelight, timed better than ever, was extremely moving.

Doris resigned as Worship Chair effective Dec 31, 2022. Currently there is no chair and no job description as the liturgy pilot proposal will have an effect on the position.

*Epiphany* theme was a sermon series on “Home, Family, and Community” and included sermons by both the rector and associate, Adjunct Patricia Catalano, Deacon Thom and Seminarian Joel. The culmination of the season on February 19 was a King Cake for 11 am coffee hour, complete with ‘baby’ found by Mary Cooper (who will provide the King Cake next year).

**Altar Guild** *Susan Ryerson, Doris Burton, Co-Sacristans.* We continue to work as singles instead of our former pairs because we had not been offering wine at communion although we are back to offering bread instead of wafers. Wine will be offered as of Lent I and guild members may choose to have a partner. Most of the brass has now been repaired and re-lacquered with the exception of the 19<sup>th</sup> C floor candelabra and a few smaller pieces. The Endowment Board approved up to \$3600 to repair and polish the floor candelabra and we will be creating rules for their use by parishioners and renters to reduce damage. We are working on a design for new green paraments as ours are faded and worn. We will apply to the Endowment for funds to cover the cost.

The Guild held its first in-person luncheon and meeting in June which included a ‘test’ on the ‘rules’ for traditional guild members. Since we are rather ‘low-church’, the membership howled at terminology we didn’t know (including guest Patricia Catalano) realizing we’d never make it on such a guild! We also acknowledged two long-time members who retired: Sherrill Taylor and Joan Schindel. Kim Bayliss joined and is in training for the spring, ’23.

A remaining piece of the Baxter Hall beam wood was used to create a sign/dedication installed next to the Sacristy door in December honoring Dr. Bertha Martin, Chair emerita. We are sad to lose the founder of the current guild as she trained most of us in her many years as chair. Bertha’s death marks the changing of the guard.

**St. Honoré Guild** *Karen Weidemann* An attempt is being made to encourage parishioners to bake for eucharist. Karen and seminarian, Joel Martinez, have a collection of recipes specifically for eucharist and welcome anyone interested in this work.

**Acolytes** *Doris Burton, Coordinator* Announcements inviting children and adults to join the corps resulted in 5 children, 3 from the 9am congregation and 2 from the 11, volunteering: Finn Nostrand, Sybil Ory, and Nathaniel Ramish at 9 and Maddie and Marshall Thorpe at 11. This expands the corps to 10 which is very exciting. In December, Doris and seminarian Joel Martinez, held a 1-hour training session. The first of the new acolytes began serving at the Christmas pageant and Sundays following with the vergers or a coordinator mentoring them through their first services. All the new acolytes will be formally installed on March 5. New volunteers age 8 and above are welcome to contact the coordinator.

**Vergers** *Josie Jordan* The Verger Corps grew to ten members in 2022: Michael Bloomfield, Jennifer Cate, David Deutsch, Raiford Gaffney, Martha Huizenga, Josie Jordan, Michael Knipe, Jan Lipscomb, Michele Rivard, and welcomed Malissa Zimmerman. We were able to accommodate a couple of short leaves, one for a member to settle into her Manciple role and another to be with her newborn grandchild. We also helped plan and serve at twelve funerals, a significant increase over past years. In the final months of this year, 9:00 vergers took on the welcomed duty of coaching new youth acolytes before and during the services. It is a joy to have them lead us in worship!

**Livestream Crew** *Charlie Rupp, David Deutsch* Livestreaming has settled down to a smooth flowing operation, providing a wide variety of opportunities for those people off-site to see not only the 11:15 service but funerals, town hall meetings, and other special events. The National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence was the highlight of 2022; the speakers included President Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

A major step forward for the team is the successful training of Matt Dodge and Elizabeth Godec as directors. This on-going project of training additional personnel from the congregation to be part of the team is headed by Elin Whitney-Smith.

Need stats? The video team estimates for 2022:

Worship and other streamed events were viewed live by 1700 people, amounting to a “month of Sundays” based on the average in person attendance in 2019 of 284100-200 people viewed recordings after events had ended.

Note that livestream recordings are regularly copied into the parish's digital archive.

**Readers' Guild** *Maureen Shea (9am), Andrew Stafford (11:15)* The guild is open to all. Maureen reports 21 readers for the 9. There are currently 18 readers in the rotation for the 11:15am service, with several others taking a few months off. New volunteers are welcome to contact the coordinator(s).

**Centering Prayer** *Rev. Patricia Catalano (See Adjunct report)*

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

**Compline** *no coordinator*; What served so many so well during the Covid shut-down is now on hiatus until a new coordinator volunteers.

**Thursday noon Eucharist** has gone on hiatus due to low attendance.

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

### **Introduction: Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. Renew.**

With a more normal post-COVID return to activities, the CE program mounted a successful roster of classes, virtually and in-person. In September, Sunday school returned to pre-COVID attendance with full teaching teams at every level and with the regular weekly ebb and flow of attendance in person. We had 40+ children registered for Sunday school.

As an experiment, we combined middle/senior high classes with something of a "one-room schoolhouse" approach until we could make a better assessment of how many middle/high school students would attend. This experiment has gone quite well and the combined classes well attended.

In addition to in-person classes, many adult classes met on Zoom with video conferencing proving to be a positive added opportunity to the mix of CE programming. We expect virtual technology will allow a robust CE program as some classes opt for video conferencing, some in-person, and some hybrid (video conferencing/in-person) gatherings. As we write this report (February '23), we feel we have advanced the process of returning to our community, re-examining our lives, reconnecting with each other, and also beginning the process of renewing our spirits.

### **Program Category Summary**

Our (CE) program is divided into the following areas:

- Sunday school for pre-school through grade 12

- Adult classes/offerings consisting of:

  - Issues-cased experiential classes

  - Pop-up classes (classes that spontaneously arise through the year after the publication of the CE Catalog)

  - Bibles Studies (adult Sunday school and week-day classes)

  - Meditation & Centering Prayer

**CE 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 educational offerings and we are open to and encourage any suggestions emerging from the particular interests and experiences of our parishioners. Primarily, our program strives to be a "big umbrella" program including various types of offerings and instructional methodologies that appeal to the different interests of parish members. A key cornerstone of the CE 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 a Sunday school experience following a unified arc, providing broad coverage of basic Christian lore and 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 combined middle/high school class.

*Catechesis I (ages 3 to kindergarten)*

Theme: I am known and I am loved . . .  
Focus: Love: Jesus as the Good Shepherd  
Teacher: Leslie Proctor; Assistant: Liz Layton

*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

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

This was the third year 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 each week from the Book of Common Prayer. Different "Teen Text" curricula are tailored to middle/high school ages. The curriculum is a product of The Educational Center, an independent organization rooted in the Episcopal tradition. This is our third year using the curriculum and it has been well received.

Teachers: Jeb Ory, Lisa Ramish and Doug Padgett

**Adult Classes: March 1, '22 to February 28, '23**

*Episcopalians 101:* This short course is usually 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. Rector Michele Morgan taught the course in March and November 2022.

*CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontents:* This class explored how we were all invisibly affected by the caste system in the United States. Our understanding of how this system is baked in our bones is the only way we can begin to think outside the 'caste box' as Jesus did. The class used the book Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson.

Leaders: Marilu Sherer and Patricia Catalano

*Baseball Class: "Put me in coach; I'm ready to play . . .": Life Lessons from Baseball.* The class took a serious look at the aspects of our lives involving play, games, sports, and competition. They played with and competed against each other in a variety of inclusive ways and discussed what gets stimulated when we do. The class explored themes around winning, being part of a team, and playing by the rules.

Leaders: Bill Jordan, Kit Arrington, Stewart Andrews

*What Do I Believe?* Covid has occasioned for many of us deep reflection on what matters most in our lives. As we emerge from the crisis, this short but intensive class provided an opportunity to reflect on our personal existential matters, where the questions of identity, life passions and priorities, deeds and misdeeds, longings and beliefs are all interconnected. From this nexus, participants focused on the building blocks of their personal theology that help make sense of the randomness and the non-sense of life.

Leaders: Betsy Athey and Bruce Sherman

*Faith in Action:* This group explored themes of discipleship and personal ministry with a focus on exploring small and larger actions that can be taken to live out one's faith on a daily basis. They used scripture, art, and poetry as inspiration on their journey to think theologically about their lives and where and in what ways they are being called to service. Leader: Joel Martinez, Seminarian

*Wrestling with the Angel:* This class explores spirituality, faith, philosophy, and ethics and is led by the clergy. Participants engage in a critical and constructive discussion of central themes of human life as witnessed in scripture

They read selected passages together and discuss how to apply what they read to deepen their spiritual practices, hone their ethics, and address the mystery at the center of their lives.

*Leader: Rev. Michele Morgan*

*Hearing the Code Talkers: Preparing to Engage with Navajo Veterans and their Communities:* As part of our new relationship with the Navajoland community served by our former seminarian, Rev. Joe Hubbard, the Navajoland Steering Group is organizing a series of events to commemorate the Navajos' history of military service. They kicked off the series with a four-session discussion of the book Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII by Chester Nez. Beyond being a war story, the book offered insights into the Indian Affairs school system and economic policies, Navajo culture and spirituality, and other important topics.

*Leaders: Joe Hubbard and Steve Dalzell*

*You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War.* Elizabeth Becker, a parishioner and noted reporter/author led this discussion building on the theme of faith and using her most recent book You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War as the reading material. The issue in the case of all three women was how their moral compasses were altered or expanded or threatened by the real and immediate toll of covering a war and by the different and heavy responsibility of finding an honest way to convey that story.

*Leader: Elizabeth Becker*

*Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. Renew: An Experiential Dialogue for the St. Mark's Community:* The past two and a half years have presented us all with challenges we could never have anticipated. This class took time to look at tools to help navigate and take some important time to invest in self-care. The half-day engagement class explored our experiential approach to education as a foundation for a faith journey.

*Leaders: Rita Ossalinski & Don Lipscomb*

*Before I Go: Guidance for Planning your Memorial Service* focused on leaving our affairs in order when we die as an important gift for our loved ones. The leaders offered guidance on planning participants' memorial services. It was a four-session workshop that went through the process of choosing readings, prayers, and music, as well as who participants might ask to give a tribute and what sort of bio would suit them. The class also included exploration, in community, of spiritual issues that arise as we face our mortality.

*Leaders: Josie and Bill Jordan*

### **Exploring the Arts of St. Marks**

*Praying and Praising with Your Body: The St. Mark's Dance Studio:* Longtime Director of the Dance Studio Rosetta Brooks and parishioner Stephanie Deutsch talked about the history of dance at St. Mark's and the many ways movement can enhance spiritual experience. *Leaders: Rosie Brooks, Tracy Councill and Stephanie Deutsch*

*Exploring Our Clerestory & Chapel Stained-Glass Windows* took a tour through the chapel and around upper windows in the nave to learn about the figures represented in there which we see every week but have, perhaps, not really noticed. *Leaders: Mary Cooper and Elin-Whitney Smith*

*21st Century Consort: Discover a New Appreciation for Contemporary Classical Music:* In December, St. Mark's hosted a pre-concert discussion to "A Christmas Ghost Story" presented by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Consort. The discussion in Baxter Hall was an opportunity to hear the performers and composer discuss the inspiration for the music, what the melodies or rhythms might represent, why certain instruments were selected, and the challenges with performing this particular composition. The discussion provided a musical context for the listener and how to bring the music to life for each individual listener. *Leader: Jeff Kempinski*

*Beyond the Frame: Imaging Justice* explored how visual images can tell stories envisioned in the artist's imagination and in the viewer's memories and associations. The group visited an exhibit at a local museum to facilitate contemplating how images help us understand ourselves and others and how art can assist us in responding to calls for engaged, reflective and challenging spiritual formation. *Leader: Angie Cecil*

*Palestinian Embroidery:* Palestinian Embroidery is an easy skill to learn quickly and one which can translate to other kinds of needlework. Members created a small piece of embroidery of flowers of the Holy Land that will be made into stoles for our clergy on Maundy Thursday when the Diocese of Jerusalem is the recipient of our offering.

*Leaders: Doris Burton and Karen Getman*

*Beyond the Frame: Raven and the Box of Light* took place at the National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibition featured storytelling paired with original music, coastal Pacific Northwest soundscapes, and projected images. *The Raven* took us on a journey of transformation from darkness into light as we asked “What are our stories? Are stories Journeys? How are we transformed by our journeys?”

*Leaders: Martha Connor Donnelly and Penny Farley*

### **Bible Studies; Meditation; and Centering Prayer (on-going)**

Wednesday Bible Study met by Zoom, February 2022 to February 2023.

*Leader: Peter Moseley and Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney*

*Centering Prayer* meets by zoom every morning at 8:00 am and provide participants 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. More than 40 members and outside guests are on the listserv for this group which is well attended almost every day. *Leader: Rev. Patricia Catalano*

*Meditation Center:* In conjunction with the Insight Meditation Center of Washington, parishioners and interested members of the community gather Monday nights to practice silent meditation and listen to a short dharma talk. This group meets in a hybrid fashion both in person and by Zoom. *Leader: Michele Rivard*

### **Baptism**

*Baptism Course for Parents* was offered once, in February '22, to prepare parents for the sacrament of baptism.

*Leaders: John Edwards, Kris Humphries, and Steve & Jennifer Dalzell*



The winged lion of St. Mark, a woodcut by David Evelyn

**ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES**

*Last year we reported that 331 attendees had signed up for a combination of Sunday School and Adult Education classes. This year's attendance total of 437 represents a 32% increase.*

<b>COURSE/CLASS</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>		
Catechesis I	12	Leslie Proctor
Catechesis II	14	Suzanne Wells
Catechesis III	6	Stephanie Deutsch, David Trissell
Middle School and High School	9	Lisa Ramish, Jeb Ory, Doug Padgett
<b>ADULT CLASSES</b>		
Episcopalians 101	12	Rev. Michele Morgan
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents	20	Rev. Patricia Catalano, Marilu Sherer
Put Me in Coach; I'm Ready to Play: Life Lessons from Baseball	18	Bill Jordan, Stewart Andrews, Kit Arrington
What Do I Believe?	25	Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman
Faith in Action	10	Joel Martinez
Wrestling with the Angel	25	Rev. Michele Morgan
Hearing the Code Talkers: Preparing to Engage with Navajo Veterans and their Communities	23	Rev. Joe Hubbard, Steve Dalzell
You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War	20	Elizabeth Becker
Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. Renew: An Experiential Dialogue for the St. Mark's Community	18	Rita Ossolinski, Don Lipscomb
Before I Go: Guidance for Building Your Memorial Service	28	Josie and Bill Jordan
<b>EXPLORING THE ARTS</b>		
Praying and Praising with Your Body: The St. Mark's Dance Studio	25	Rosie Brooks
Exploring Our Clerestory & Chapel Stained Glass Windows	27	Mary Cooper
21st Century Consort: Discover a New Appreciation for Contemporary Classical Music	35	Jeff Kempskie
Beyond the Frame: Imagining Justice	4	Angie Cecil
Palestinian Embroidery	10	Doris Burton, Karen Getman
Raven and the Box of Daylight	11	Martha Connor-Donnelly, Penny Farley
<b>BIBLE STUDIES: BIBLE STUDY, CENTERING PRAYER, MEDITATION; (on-going)</b>		
Wednesday Bible Study	15	Peter Mosley
Centering Prayer	48	Patricia Catalano
St. Mark's Meditation Center	17	Michele Rivard
<b>BAPTISM</b>		
Baptism Course for Parents Spring and Fall	5	John Edwards, Kris Humphries, Steve and Jennifer Dalzell
<b>TOTAL CLASS ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>437</b>	

**OUTREACH** Julie Murphy, Co-Chair and (Vacant) Incoming Co-Chair

**Board Members:** Susan Sedgewick, Linda Staheli, Leslie Allen, Jan Lipscomb, Steve Dalzell, Margie Ware, Betsy Agle, Peter Hawley (2023), Edna Boone (Vestry Liaison) **Affiliated Clergy/Staff:** Deacon Thom Sinclair

**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 programs, evaluate funding requests, and provide overall coordination and promotion of our outreach arena.

For more information: check webpages: (<https://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/>) or contact the Outreach Co-Director at [outreach@stmarks.net](mailto:outreach@stmarks.net)

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

##### **Food Insecurity (\$5000)**

**Salvation Army Grate Patrol** (\$1000): This program brings an evening meal to homeless neighbors 365 nights a year and serves more than 3,000 people each month. Volunteers, primarily parents and children, make sandwiches and bag meals on the 4th Sunday of every month. After almost two years of not making lunches due to Covid-19 we begin making lunches as a community in January of 2022 and both parents and children were very much engaged.

**Capital Area Food Bank** (\$4000) – The Capital Area Food Bank leads our region’s efforts to provide equitable access to food and opportunity to people struggling with hunger and food insecurity. Each year, they source and distribute food for over 45 million meals.

##### **Gun Violence Prevention (\$1000)**

**The National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence:** (\$0) The members of our GVP group have supported events in partnership with the non-profits, including The Newtown Action Alliance 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 2022, the Vigil was held and we had our largest presence to date. Through our GVP Chair, Stewart Andrews, we were able to extend an invitation to President Joe Biden who attended and was the keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary vigil. Along with him, speakers included Senators Murphy (D-Ct) and Blumenthal (D-Ct) as well as Speaker Pelosi and Rep.-Elect Maxwell Frost. We had a healthy crowd (approximately 450) and counted this vigil a tremendous success. We are still researching other initiatives to complement the National Vigil.

**Peace for DC:** (\$1000) Because the costs of the vigil were covered, the Board elected to contribute the amount in our budget for gun violence prevention to Peace for DC. Launched in 2021, this galvanizes community-based organizations, philanthropy, experts, and policymakers in a collective effort to reduce gun violence in District neighborhoods with the highest rates of violence.

##### **Incarceration Justice (\$3000)**

We are parishioners and friends who meet to discuss and support reform of the prison systems. In 2022, our number of participants has grown to 47. In December we had our first in-person gathering to write to residents of the DC Jail. We sent 25 letters and 6 children’s drawings.

**Mission Statement:** *We believe, as part of a faith community, that God’s love extends to all, including people who are incarcerated and those returning to the community. We strive to educate ourselves and others about incarceration justice, promote an expectation of care, dignity and respect for all, and partner with other organizations to advocate for change, while participating in direct service opportunities.*

Again, this year, we supported the Lenten Mite Box project. Parishioners wrote pieces designed to expand our awareness of the prison systems and its overwhelming injustices. We included voices from poets at Free Minds Book Club, all with first-hand experience. Donations we received totaled \$2730.25 which were divided between the Free Minds Book Club and Returning Citizens Assistance Network (RCAN).

We welcomed numerous speakers throughout the year:

Fran Bolin and Patrick Link, Assisting Families of Inmates, explained their programs.

Two *Free Minds Ambassadors* attended all three services to read poems during Mission Moments in March.

Deaconess Pat Marks, Ph.D from the DC Corrections Information Council shared insights from the perspective of her role in advocacy for imprisoned individuals.

Stewart Andrews met with us about the Gun Violence Prevention Vigil, and we assisted with volunteers.

Moya Atkinson shared insights about her work as founder of Social Workers and Allies Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC) – <http://www.socialworkersasc.org>

Jan Lipscomb attended the Ready Center Reentry Symposium, June 22, '22, at American University College of Law. This was an amazing and powerful experiential event: a large gathering of volunteers and professionals who work with prisoners and returning citizens.

We are thankful for support from the Board which enabled us to donate to Free Minds and RCAN, associated with the N.Y. Ave. Presbyterian Church. In addition, we donated to Neighbors for Justice, Assisting Families of Inmates [AFOI], and Interfaith Action for Human Rights [IAHR]. If interested, please contact Jan Lipscomb at [jua-nita.lipscomb@gmail.com](mailto:jua-nita.lipscomb@gmail.com).

### **International Programs (\$2000)**

***Sustainable Villages Honduras (\$2000)***: The Board has supported the non-profit Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH) since its launch in April '17 and dozens of individual parishioners have also been very generous. 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.

***The Mid East Working Group (MEWG) Maureen Shea (Chair), Jennifer Cate, Karen Getman, Mary Neznek, Mandy Paust*** Sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family through Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA), in partnership with Christ Church+Washington, as well as support for other Afghan refugees, consumed much of our energy for 2022. Given the wide support in the parish for the refugee effort, we successfully advocated for it to move under the Outreach umbrella.

Thanks to Jennifer Cate, we sent four blast email alerts, continuing to highlight particular articles and events of interest. Through the Good Friday Offering and our Advent sale of olive oil from the Holy Land, we sent donations through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem to the Ramallah Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center and the Arab Evangelical School.

In light of the deteriorating situation in Palestine and Israel and the lack of interest in the Biden administration in pursuing efforts on the diplomatic front, public policy advocacy has mostly been quiet. However, we did have the chance to highlight the important issue of the mistreatment of Palestinian children held by the Israeli government. The Vestry added its voice to those asking Bishop Mariann to raise with President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken the arrest of Shadi Khoury and other minors detained in Israeli custody, which she did. See more in this Washington Post piece:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/11/israel-west-bank-ben-gvir/>.

MEWG continues to carry \$1,230 in funds to be made available for a clergy or lay leader wishing to visit the Holy Land to better understand the Palestinian/Israeli situation.

Jewish Voice for Peace will be holding its monthly meetings at St. Mark's and all are invited to attend.

MEWG former Chair and Diocesan Delegate Tom Getman led passage of a resolution at the EDOW annual convention recognizing Israel's discriminatory legal system and treatment of the Palestinians as apartheid. While the resolution did not pass the General Convention, the issue will continue to be raised as more and more human rights groups reach the same conclusion.

### **Migrants and Refugees (\$3000)**

***Refugees and Humanitarian Parolees (\$3000):*** In these vulnerable times, we have two ways of providing support for refugees and asylum seekers.

With Christ Church, we began a partnership in 2021 to sponsor and mentor a father, mother and two sons, (ages 2 and 4) who were evacuated from Kabul in October of that year. We met “our family” in January 2022 while they were in temporary housing at the Marriott in Bethesda. Volunteers from both congregations assisted the family with transition and the family were able to move to permanent housing at the Enclave apartments, Silver Spring in late April.

The father is an excellent English speaker with qualifications which made him a good candidate for employment., He was hired early after his arrival and his earnings are sufficient for his family needs. He is as an interlocutor assisting in the continuing rescue effort of Afghan refugees targeted by the Taliban.

The Stanikzai family continues to thrive in their new home. They joyfully welcomed a baby girl in October. Individual volunteers from our partnership with Christ Church have continued to provide tutoring for the mother and the boys, as well as medical and other practical advice to this family.

Additionally, our Refugee Steering Committee has maintained a strong connection to EDOW Refugee Response and through that network (and others with a commitment to refugee resettlement), we were able to assist 6 additional families with funds provided by Outreach and our Refugee Emergency Assistance Fund. To receive our Refugee Updates, please contact [mtshea@aol.com](mailto:mtshea@aol.com). Volunteers are welcome and donations can be directed to refugees through St. Mark’s website.

As a founder member of Good Neighbors Capitol Hill coalition, we are still assisting in the preparation of housing for Afghan (and other) refugees resettling in the DMV region. The coalition of 8 congregations in partnership with many unaffiliated community members continues to furnish apartments with the help of volunteers, as well as cash and GIK donations from neighbors and friends. GNCH has just completed their 105th apartment. This effort will certainly continue as many families arrive in our local area, Donations of gently used furnishings, appliances, TV’s, bed and bath linens, toiletries and kitchen supplies are welcome.

[GoodNeighborsCapitolHill.org](http://GoodNeighborsCapitolHill.org) provides an overview and contact for donations or volunteers. WE recently hosted a hugely successful fundraising concert featuring the Second Strings Orchestra and Afghan tabla player, Hamid Habibzadah.

***Migrants Bused to DC*** Since spring ‘22, the governors of several border states have been sending migrants to northern cities, including Washington, to protest the border crisis and the lack of immigration reform. It is estimated that as many as 11,000 migrants have been dropped off in DC with some of those individuals electing to stay in this area. Approximately 700 individual migrants including many children are living in local hotels and shelters.

We have responded by sending volunteers to respite and welcome centers and by accepting donations of clothes. It is hoped that we can become the primary supplier of donated items to the two churches on Capitol Hill operating as welcome centers.

### **Responsive Grant Program (\$1000)**

In ‘22, in addition to the current missions we support through the Outreach Board, we set aside \$1000 to give parishioners the opportunity to develop outreach initiatives. In October, we advertised to our community the chance to receive a small grant to jump start a new project to benefit the larger community outside our walls. Proposals were due by October 31st. The Outreach Board received two: one submitted by Julie Murphy, concerning migrants’ needs, and one by high-schooler, Tucker Trissell, to fund various needs for the Glasgow Middle School Science Olympiad team in Fairfax County, VA, where he is a co-coach.

Tucker, his mother Terri Trissell, and others had been actively fundraising for this program, and had received a potential matching grant for these additional funds, which was an added incentive. Glasgow has a very diverse ethnic population (11% Asian; 12% Black; 54% Hispanic or Latino; 21% White), with 68 percent of the students qualifying for free or reduced lunch, and over a third of the students still learning English. The school had 30 students committed to the team as an afterschool program and was committed to keeping the program free.

Last year 68% of the students qualified for free or reduced lunch. Because Glasgow is committed to keeping this after school program free, the group could not charge a fee for student participation.

The Board voted to give the entire grant to Tucker, who was thrilled. He sent a follow-up email explaining how they used the funds and providing a picture of the team in Science Olympiad shirts which were one of the things that the grant helped fund. Those involved in the program believe that offering a Science Olympiad program at Glasgow helps develop students' interest in STEM fields and will help create more diversity at the well-known magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and in the science and engineering fields overall.

Depending on Board funding, we hope to offer a similar grant program in 2023.

**Samaritan Ministry (SMGW) (\$0 in 2022; \$1,000 proposed for 2023) (<https://samaritanministry.org/>)**

We were one of 12 Episcopal churches founding Samaritan Ministry in 1986. The organization helps individuals in need across the metro area — including many returning citizens — improve their lives by setting realistic goals in education, employment, housing, and health. Staff caseworkers and trainers, together with volunteers, then assist program participants in defining and taking the “next steps” they need to meet their goals. Over the years, our members have supported the work of the Ministry by serving on its Board and Parish Partner Council, volunteering on-site, and providing both in-kind and financial assistance. In 2020, however, we withdrew from SMGW due to a lack of member involvement.

In March 2022, 15 parishioners attended a Ministry telecast and were so impressed by the testimonies of those who have been helped by SMGW and by the expanded scope of the Ministry's work that they sought to have the Outreach Board reconsider its decision. Today SMGW's Partner Council consists of 48 Episcopal churches plus the Cathedral, the Diocese, two Episcopal schools, and four churches in other denominations. The most recent is the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on East Capitol Street. The Ministry now operates six offices in DC, MD and VA, with a 7<sup>th</sup> set to open in Ward 7. In October, the Board unanimously approved a proposal to rejoin Samaritan Ministry submitted by a team of the telecast participants. The Vestry ratified this decision at its November meeting. Mary Nezek will serve as our “Partner Representative” along with Peter Hawley as an interim representative. Stay tuned for more information on success stories and volunteer opportunities.

**Social Services/Homelessness/Social Justice (\$20,000)**

**Everyone Home DC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry) (\$15,000)** Established in 1967, this group helps neighbors, especially families, who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, with achieving housing stability and maximum self-sufficiency. Everyone Home DC operates several neighborhood-serving programs.

Last year, they continued to assist thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness to meet their basic needs and supported hundreds of families in avoiding or transitioning out of homelessness. Our members were instrumental in building one of these programs, Shirley's Place, in response to the need for people experiencing homelessness to spend their day off the street. It provides a safe and comfortable place they can go for a meal, take a shower, do laundry, and talk with counselors.

Our longstanding partnership continues with former Senior Warden Ryan Baugh serving on the Everyone Home DC board where he has a major leadership role as chair of its Governance Committee.

In addition to our corporate financial support, parishioners supported the following Everyone Home DC drives. (Note the process developed during the pandemic of giving supported families shopping cards in lieu of donated goods has empowered them to provide for their families. We expect this process to continue.) Parishioners had the option of donating online or mailing a check to Everyone Home DC.



**Back to school supplies:** 10+ parishioners donated towards shopping cards distributed to families served by Everyone Home DC for their back-to-school shopping.

**Thanksgiving Dinners:** 25+ parishioners donated toward the Thanksgiving Drive providing \$50 grocery shopping cards to families for them to purchase the makings for Thanksgiving dinner.

**Holiday gifts for families:** 6+ parishioners contributed to the fund that would allow the distribution of shopping cards to families so they could purchase gifts for their children. The dollar amounts of the cards were based on family size.

We also supported Shirley's Place, by delivering refrigerated leftovers from the several events held in Baxter Hall to the day hospitality center.

### **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) (\$5000) –**

*Core team: Kit Arrington, Edna Boone, Josie Jordan, Betsy Agle, Joel Martinez*

During our second year as dues-paying members of WIN, we continued to enthusiastically embrace being part of a city-wide community of **50 primarily faith-based institutions** building relationships with individuals to work on issues of equity and justice that include Affordable Housing / Public Lands / Public Housing; Living Wage Jobs; the Environment; Black Equity Through Homeownership, and Public Safety. Primarily drawing from the WIN Realm-group mailing list (64), we contribute 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 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. This work was shared in a May Mission Moment. Regular emails, occasional update meetings, and <http://www.stmarks.net/win/> keeps the parish informed of actions and opportunities!

What does WIN Action look like at St. Mark's?

**Actions & Training:** of the many 2022 WIN actions and training opportunities, our parishioners actively participated by attending and engaging in the following:

#### **Public Housing & Affordable Housing:**

**Ongoing:** Through WIN's Public Housing Working Group, ongoing work alongside residents of the Potomac Gardens public housing Seniors building (joined by Seminarian Joel Martinez), creating and reporting results of a maintenance survey, increasing awareness and understanding of RAD renovation rights; and drafting an MOU for resident needs and concerns.

**September: Ward 3** - Proposal to rebuild Chevy Chase library w/100 units of affordable housing.

**October: Mayor's Strike Force** (with WIN representation) announcing affordable housing initiatives reflecting WIN's Black Equity Through Homeownership recommendations.

**March 10th: Black Equity through Home Ownership Lunch and Learn:** WIN training on the WIN Black Equity Through Homeownership (BETH) action: *We believe that every native Washingtonian who wants to stay in DC should have every right and resource to stay.*

**November-February:** WIN Public Housing Group meetings with DCHA administrative team reviewing WIN's research and recommendations on the Federally Funded RAD redevelopments for DCHA properties.

**November** (9 participate w/122 total): DCHA scathing HUD report Public Housing Press Conference response w/City Council members outlining actions that need to be taken to rectify long-standing problems and support residents and their rights to decent living conditions and timely support. "WIN, including our resident leader members, see ourselves both as allies in creating accountability and an asset in advocating and laying the groundwork for the realization of these objectives." says WIN leader Kit Arrington."

**February:** Host Film Screening and panel discussion (110 attend hybrid event): *Barry Farm - Community, Land & Justice in Washington, D.C.* "It is a story of Barry Farm, but it is also a story of Washington, DC. And, in the cycles of place and displacement, it is a story of the United States of America."

#### **Political Power:**

**March 20th: Power Building City-Wide Candidate Forum: Where do you stand on WIN issues?** (2,000 attendees including 47 from St. Mark's!) Council Chair Candidates: Phil Mendelson; Erin Palmer | Attorney General Candidates: Bruce Spiva; Brian Schwalb; Kenyan McDuffie | Mayoral Candidates: Muriel Bowser, Trayon White, Robert White.

**May: DC Budget Letters:** Letters of support sent for WIN priorities resulting in Budget item impacts that included "...Creation of a new \$10 million Black Homeownership Fund to keep longtime D.C. residents in their homes..." & "...\$329 million to repair or replace public housing units, largely for seniors; \$31 million for new permanent supportive housing vouchers; \$13.8 million for violence intervention contracts in 25 priority communities across the District."

**June:** Power to the Polls Pop-up Ward 6 - Encouraged voter registration and promoted WIN issues when selecting a candidate! Joined the Poor People's Campaign March.

**January-February:** Meeting with Charles Allen (Ward 6) & Kenyan McDuffie (At-Large) to review WIN issues. Received interest from Charles Allen to attend an upcoming meeting of St. Mark's Incarceration Justice group.

**Environment:** (see *Green Lions Report*)

**February 2022:** Training on the social and environmental harms of "natural gas," plus learning how local leaders have been building power together to transition the District off of gas and cleaner energy sources, leading to some class participants testifying to the DC Council Business & Economic Development Committee during the oversight hearing on the Public Service Commission

**October:** WIN's Electric Slide Bus Tour: Intro to Methane Gas issues; Affordable Housing (Res 13); Public Housing - Charles Allen @ residents of Potomac Gardens.

**December 2022-February 2023:** Lead by Seminarian Joel Martinez, middle/high Sunday school teach-in & two Climate in the Pulpit Baxter Hall/kitchen presentations on negative environmental impact of methane gas with measuring indoor air pollution from gas stoves plus 20 parishioners and families signed-up for in-home Citizen Scientist testing to gather data points for a regional report. (ed: see *Green Lions report* below)

**Other Training & Outreach:**

**February:** Public Safety Issue training

**May & June Power Lunch Learning Series** with ally organizing groups in Boston, Cleveland, Wisconsin and Maryland: Voter-Depression-to-Voter-Engagement; How to Motivate People; Trauma Informed Organizing

**January & February:** WIN Winter Training Series - Organizing: Introduction to Public Action; Building Relational Power through Public Narratives and Relational Meetings; Problem vs. Issue and Local Action Prep

**Ongoing:** St. Mark's WIN leader Edna Boone leads a WIN Ward 6 group to learn and support each other in our respective areas of concern and to build energy around common issues within Ward 6.

### **Youth Support (\$5000)**

**Bishop Walker School (BWS):** 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. Assistant Rector Chris Phillips and Outreach Board Coordinator Julie Murphy led a St. Mark's visit to BWS in August. Among BWS' highlights for 2022 were the first high school graduations of BWS alumni and its first Alumni Weekend. BWS's innovative Teaching Residency for Equity and Engagement (TREE) Fellowship also reached a milestone, with a former fellow becoming a lead teacher at BWS for the first time.

See <https://www.bishopwalkerschool.org/> for more information.

### **Vision 2020 Excess Capital Funds**

In addition to distributing the funds from the operating budget, last year, the Vestry charged the Board with disbursement of \$15,692.76 in monies leftover from the recent capital campaign to worthy charitable organizations and initiatives. The Board voted to fund the following:

**Building Bridges Across the River/ THEARC:** (\$5,230.92) we were pleased to make a donation in memory of Joya Cox to the music arts programs supported by THEARC (which is managed by Building Bridges Across the River.) The Vestry deemed this gift most appropriate as Joya, a long-time parishioner, was known for her interest in music and underserved youth.

**Navajoland** (new this year) (\$1,519.30 spent; remainder of \$5,230.92 held in a Temporary Restricted Account) February 22, 2022, the Vestry designated a proposed partnership between St. Mark's and St. Christopher Mission's Church, Navajoland, as a recipient of surplus funding from the Extended Vision 2020 campaign. A steering group formed for this effort developed a series of activities focused on Veterans Day 2022. In October, members of both congregations joined for a book group discussing the memoir of a World War II Navajo Code-Talker, led by St. Christopher's vicar (and former St. Mark's seminarian) Joe Hubbard and Steve Dalzell. At the same time, the Outreach Board approved using part of the Extended Vision funds to pay for a commercial-grade flagpole at St. Christopher's to replace an old and badly weathered wooden one.

In early November, Steve, Kit Arrington, and Caleb Nelson Amaker traveled to Bluff, Utah, for the first in-person dialogue with St. Christopher's. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the new flagpole was inaugurated as the centerpiece of

St. Christopher's Veterans Day commemoration. The St. Mark's team also participated in a Veteran's Day potluck, distribution of Thanksgiving turkeys, and the Sunday worship service. Veterans Day also saw a small group from St. Mark's attending the dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. For more information about these new partners and places, visit <https://ecofnavajoland.org/the-Utah-region/> and <https://americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm>

**Refugee Steering Committee** (\$5230.92) – see above

**Green Lions** *Betsy Agle, Mary Neznok, co-chairs; Leslie Allen, Pamela Blumgartner, Christina Herman, Sis McKay*

2022 marked our re-gathering with plans for more in-person educational and hands-on events coming. With support from seminarian, Joel Martinez, members of the parish, Sunday school children, and Caleb Amaker, walked around the neighborhood locating areas where natural gas leaks were detected by the 'sniffer' provided by the Sierra Club. Leaks from home stoves and underground pipes are a danger to the climate and contribute to greenhouse effect. Leaks are also a contributing factor to asthma and respiratory problems.

The Green Lions contribute financially to Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) as part of the Diocese of Washington and our denomination's Creation Care awareness and action programs. We are grateful to Joel Martinez who crafted themes of creation care into sermons related to environmental and social justice.

*Goals for 2023 include an in-person film on the danger to the environment of fossil fuels and to advocate for continued themes of environmental justice in sermons and worship music and liturgy. We are grateful to the vestry for their continued support which allows us to support interfaith environmental justice organizational membership.*

**ARTS** *Tracy Councill and Elin Whitney-Smith co-chairs*

This year, we managed a number of projects:

- Re-fashioned "Loaves and Fishes" sculpture early in the year
- Worked with Christian Ed on several arts-related classes, including Zoom class, *Stained Glass Windows 01* led by Mary Cooper
- In-person class: *History of the Dance Studio* led by Stephanie Deutsch
- Brought back the popular *Beyond the Frame* classes in 2022 and 2023. "Imagining Justice"
- We worked with Junior Warden David Wellman to select and install an art hanging system in the nave, to facilitate rotating art exhibits.

We organized three art shows:

- *Art for Advent* Inaugurating the newly-installed system, a gift from the estate of Kitty Donnelly and created a web-based version of the show.
- *Art for Surviving COVID* slide show at the Parish Fair
- *The Many Altars of St Marks, Real and Imagined*

We secured funds from the Arts Endowment to reframe the *Stations of the Cross* prints.

We are pleased that three arts groups are back in operation:

- The St Mark's Players are moving back into full productions: "The Thirty-nine Steps"(2020) then "The Perfect Arrangement" and "The Color Purple" (2022-23 season)
- Yoga Studio continues with regular course offerings

**Dance Studio** *Rosie Brooks*

The studio returned to in-person classes after COVID-19 with the fall registration September '22 and a staff of 3: Jessica Sloane, Dorothy Walker and Rosetta Brooks. Our Dance Board, required by the church, has only two members now: Fynette Eaton and Mary Dilworth. We are recruiting additional members.

We did not hold our traditional open house in '21-'22 season as many participants were not ready and the guests needed to meet Covid requirements. We were very lucky to have started with a good enrollment considering classes were on Zoom from March '19 to September '21. We offered child and adult ballet classes, Pilates, and

Chair Exercises. The youngest children's classes did not do as well as older children in the first semester. Second semester, we had a lot more younger students return to classes.

We held the annual recital Saturday June 4, '22 at 10:30 AM for the youngest classes and ending with the teen and adult classes later in the day. We celebrated the graduation of one teen from high school going to college: this young lady has been dancing duets (with her mother) since she was 6 years mom Victoria "Tori" Goldhammer and daughter Casey Noonan, were students ranging from pre-school thru advanced ballet with classes in jazz and modern.

It was a joy to have the recital after missing a year for the first time since we opened the studio in 1963 under the artistic leadership of Mary Craighill. We held no recital in '19-'20 but were back for '21-'22.

Last summer, teachers Dorothy Walker and Jessica Sloane held an extensive session for children/teens who wanted to dance for hours then gave a demonstration at the end of the session. Rosetta "Rosie" Brooks also brought back the pre-pointe class to prepare beginners for a pointe class in the fall. The summer classes met twice a week for 2 ½ hours each.

It has been a joy to return to as normal studio operations as COVID allows. We have kept the mask requirement in classes and asked students to come dressed (not change on-site).

We were lucky to have Charlie Rupp set us up with Facebook and livestream so the recital could be seen on-line; the families and friends now have a way to see their students perform.

I'd like to thank Dorothy Walker and Jessica Sloane for their help with administrative work after my niece's unexpected death and my bout with acute sciatica. They were compensated for their extra hours but having experienced teachers step in was wonderful.

The season ended well!

#### **PARISH LIFE** *Karen Woodall, Convener*

**20's/30's Faith Fellowship** *Jillian Green* The Faith Fellowship meets monthly in the Dozier Library after the 5:00 p.m. service. We spend time in fellowship and discussing our reading/listening material. In '21-'22, we worked our way through The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr. This year we are reading and/or listening to The Way of Love (book/podcast) by Bishop Mariann Budde. We also held a social event on September 11, '22.

**Archives and Parish History** *Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Mary Cooper.* As for the church, '22 was a year of reopening and renewing for us. We began "This Sunday at St. Mark's" as a feature in the weekly *Gospel*, going into our files of Sunday bulletins dating to 1946 (thanks to the work of Bert and Mary Cooper, our Parish Historians) to highlight what was happening in the parish on Sunday closest to the current one. Starting in July, we produced 25 weekly pieces. We also re-launched our Baxter Hall exhibit, drawing from past exhibits and new material to re-introduce our work to the parish.

We made a determined effort to organize our collection of Sunday bulletins and Gospels (our printed monthly newsletters from the 1960s onward) as well as wedding and funeral bulletins. That collection was greatly enhanced by a contribution from the personal archives of Raiford Gaffney to whom we send a huge THANK YOU both for her diligence in keeping them and her willingness to share them with us. We hope other parishioners will consider donating their personal St. Mark's archives (after consultation, of course, to ensure the fit with our existing collection).

At the request of the Chair of the Endowment Board, we began the task of organizing their archival files. That work is continuing with hopes that it will be completed by mid-'23.

A good deal of the year was spent doing the research required for our next major exhibit which will highlight our clergy from the establishment of St. Mark's to the present day. It will go up during the first quarter of 2023, then pictures of the rectors will be installed in the Rectors Room and, ultimately, the entire exhibit will be online. By the end of '23, we hope to have added as many of the assistant and associate rectors as we can identify.

We are deeply grateful to the Endowment Board for a significant grant to support our work. This will enable us to continue to have our registers of baptisms, confirmations, communicants and deaths professionally preserved as well as to continue our exhibits and to begin to move documents online to make them more accessible.

**Caregiver's Support Group** *Julie Murphy* This was created in '20 and met monthly in '22. 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 medical health concerns, etc. Julie Murphy convenes the group each month, providing the virtual room and reminding participants.

**College of Crustaceans** *Doris Burton* Once again, the College mourns the loss of a Crab of the Year (COTY): Dr. Bertha Martin was elected to the College in 1998 for her persistent reminders to Altar Guild members who failed to set the altar properly or in a timely fashion. She was also, for years, the cook of chicken at our annual feast and just about the crabbiest among us.

We held our first Feast since the shut-down in July despite the crazy price of crabs (\$400/bushell!!) There was a great turn out, a good time had by all. Because we'd not had a feast since '19, the College did something it's never done: we awarded honorary Crabdom certificates to nearly 65 people for their contributions during the shut-down and re-opening, including former Interim Rector, Jim Steen (for "abandoning" us in 1998). However, we would have been tossed back into the Bay had we not chosen a COTY and there was no question that the Crab of the Year for '20-'21-'22 would be Covid-19. Tracy Council, COTY '18, created a memorable likeness that will live forever in our archives.

**Dozier Library** *Peter Hawley* In early '22, the Library Committee added approximately 50 books to the adult collection including many from the personal libraries of the late parishioners, Collie Agle and Jim Steed. In May, we held a "book giveaway" in Baxter Hall of excess donations and items culled from the collection. Thanks to \$129 in freewill offerings at that event, we were able to purchase 19 books, mostly for children and young adult (C&YA). In the fall, we sought parishioner recommendations to expand our C&YA collection and purchased an additional 19 books with program funds. These were displayed in Baxter Hall on January 15, 2023, together with a few donated books and a "wish list".

**Film Club** *Alicia Ruble* We have been on hiatus since the pandemic. Currently, we are exploring the idea of holding occasional movie nights in Baxter Hall and will keep everyone posted once we know more.

**Hospitality** *Kenn Allen, Maureen Shea* Coffee hour is again providing an important time for community building, particularly after Sermon Seminar. Challenges remain in recruiting people to serve and clean up, especially after the 11:15 service. More discussion is required to plan for a possible return of Sunday lunch (ed. Formerly Pub Lunch). Hospitality coordinators (aka Maureen and Kenn) use budgeted funds to purchase food and drinks while also scheduling the coffee crew. Here also more volunteers are needed as baristas and for coffee clean up.

**Lambda Lions** *Keith Krueger* We have been on hiatus for the past year and we are seeking new leadership. If interested, please email [keithkrueger@hotmail.com](mailto:keithkrueger@hotmail.com). Read the fascinating history of St. Mark's and LGBTQ+ at <https://www.stmarks.net/lgbtq-and-st-marks-history/> including updates on early events in the 1960s through today!

**Lichfield Link** *Doris Burton* Our friendship link with this English cathedral has existed since 1989 and continues despite the lack of support from the cathedral dean. I remain in contact with my counterparts, Pat and Brian Emsall, who update us on the events of the cathedral congregation. They returned to in-person services and are in the process of establishing a new chapel for the remains of one of their patron saints, St. Chad. A display in the downstairs lounge provides information about the link. Visitors in both directions are always welcome and there is hope that the link will become more active with a new dean. If interested in the history of the link, please contact Doris.

**Pub Steward/Pub Lunch** See **Hospitality** (ed. For many years, a parishioner-provided lunch, known as Pub Lunch, following the 11:15 service. This long-standing tradition has not returned for lack of a coordinator. If interested, please contact the Parish Life coordinator. Former Pub Steward, Jim Steen, died in Dec '21 and Marge Ware, his assistant, needs a partner).

**Widow/Widower's Group** *Mary Cooper* meets monthly on the first Friday at noon via Zoom. We adjust our meetings to respond to the needs and concerns of those who attend. Consequently, some meetings are devoted to consoling someone who is recently bereaved including discussion of resources and programs that can provide assistance and offering advice on how to address specific problems. On other occasions, the meetings are simply times of fellowship. It depends entirely on the needs of those in attendance.

**Women to Women** *Edna Boone* were able to meet in person for the first time since '19. We hosted a garden tea party with eight full tables of women of all ages. It was a beautiful afternoon with lots of laughs and an intergenerational Bingo game was a big hit. Additionally, the group hosted a garden drum circle. We look forward to more events in '23.

**Women's Investment Network (WIN)** *Penny Farley, Jackie Boddie* is a group of women interested in learning smart investing and building our own WIN nest egg. WIN is self-financing; we study hard and have fun as we continue to bounce and swerve with the stock market. We welcome new members.



*St. Mark the Evangelist from a window of unknown location.  
Note: the lion's wings are red as are those in our windows; still uncommon*



## STAFF REPORTS

**RECTOR** *Rev. Michele H. Morgan*

For my address to the parish at the '22 meeting, I wrote: "In a little less than a month, I will be on Sabbatical. I am unsure what that will mean for me, my wife, and some future dog I long for." Now a year later, and, as I write, a little brown senior dog named Trixie is snoring beside me. So much can change in a year, in my family, and in the parish. I am honored to serve. I continue to find that my vocation deepened here.

I want to thank Brent Bickley, Fritz Henn, and Edna Boon for their service as Vestry members. It has been an honor to serve and work with you as we aim for a better St. Mark's. With the work the three of you have done, we have continued serving our community in and outside the walls of St. Mark's. I also want to thank Louise Walsh for stepping up and taking on the role of the Senior Warden. She stepped into a challenging situation at the last minute and has been amazing and supportive of the whole community and me.

We have had a number of deaths this year (ed: see Senior Warden's report) yet I am uplifted by all of you who have supported and checked in with me. I am honored to walk through this community's life and death phases. I know that you are grieving and I trust that you are reaching out to one another as we continue to live together.

Our staff has stepped up and been present in many powerful ways as we navigated through this time. My thanks to Jeff, Christopher, Patricia, Caleb, Michael, Annick, and Katherine for all the work.

I spent the fall catching up with all the moving parts of St. Mark's yet there are always new items to consider:

The Vestry has four proposed changes to our bylaws for the parish's approval (ed: see page of this report).

- Allow the Vestry to set the annual meeting between January 1 and March 31 (as opposed to the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Sunday in Lent).
- Allow for virtual or hybrid parish meetings.
- Change the title of "Register" to "Clerk:" (for greater transparency and consistency with Episcopal Church as well as diocesan terminology).
- Allow the By-Laws to be amended at Special Parish meetings (for greater flexibility).

On Wednesday, December 7, we again hosted the Newtown Action Alliance National Vigil. Stewart Andrews and his team on Gun Violence Prevention are doing fantastic work and we are doing our best to learn all we can from Maureen Shea who did an extraordinary job during the last eight years. Stewart worked hard with Sen. Murphy's (D-CT) office to bring President Joe Biden to the Vigil, and it was a great gift to the survivors.

Pastoral care needs have grown and I am so grateful to Patricia Catalano for her work. We continue to focus on everyone on the prayer list. I tracked down everyone and checked in on the folks we were holding in prayer. It took me a little time and there were some beautiful conversations during which I asked what I might pray for each person. In the past, we just cleared out the prayer list quarterly and asked people to re-submit names. When I got here, we had folks on the prayer list for a long time who no longer needed our prayers. Several were genuinely surprised we thought they were still in the military. The dropping-and-adding created a different problem: I realized that there were people on the list who were not around much and felt deeply hurt that they were taken off and still wanted prayers. I have set up a spreadsheet I share with the bulletin coordinator, the clergy, staff, and the head verger.

Martha Huizinga, Manciple, is putting an operational safety plan together. We will also follow up on some projects from last year started by Linell Grundman and Jim Pittman, who, as our wardens, understood the big hole we have

in the security of the building. Martha and Junior Warden Dave Wellman are working to close those gaps and I am grateful to Harrison Donnelly for serving with us.

Credo Conferences have been around since 1997 and provide clergy with a multifaceted wellness experience. Through exploration of the four component areas – spiritual, vocational, financial, and physical/psychological health – CREDO participants explore ways to support personal well-being, a healthy life, and vibrant ministry. A CREDO conference helps clergy examine their health, replenish their spirit, and rediscover the passion that first animated their call to ministry. Next year, I will attend a CREDO Conference at ECCO Conference Center, Oakhurst, CA, from April 16, '24, to April 22, '24. I mention it now because the entire conference cost is due at enrollment and I will be working with our treasurer how I can be reimbursed for an expense to be incurred in 2024. I want you to know I take self-care seriously.

The Rev. Gini Gerbasi, an Episcopal priest and friend, was at St. John's+Lafayette Square June 1, 2020 when protestors and clergy were driven out of Lafayette Square by police as then-President Trump took photos in front of the church. Many protestors filed lawsuits against the various people/agencies who, they claimed responsible for attacking them and violating their civil rights. They have sought monetary damages and injunctive relief. Those cases have been working their way through the courts and have hit a point where we - as religious leaders - may be helpful. The trial court has dismissed all claims for monetary damages made by the plaintiffs against federal officials. The plaintiffs appealed that decision and asked me - as a clergy person driven off the patio - to prepare an amicus brief (friend of the court) in support of their appeal. Lawyers from Sidley Austin (a big firm here in DC) agreed to represent me and have prepared a draft brief. We are looking for more religious leaders in the DC area to sign the brief to increase its impact on the courts. I signed on to the brief.

Thank you to the Finance Committee and the treasurer's team for creating a budget for us to follow and giving us a frame to use. I was very impressed with how they handled the town halls and Randy's clarity as he and Louise answered questions.

There are some areas that Rev. Christopher Phillips, as a new Associate Rector, will be responsible for. We are an institution which has the privilege of training priests as they learn how to run a parish, a task that Christopher stepped into this summer. Christopher's move from Assistant to Associate is the next step to help him live out his goal of becoming the rector of his own congregation. He will assume enhanced preaching, teaching, and pastoral care responsibilities, oversee the creation of our weekly bulletins, assist with bequests and gifts, and compile diocesan-required reporting.

Membership has set a goal of doubling our pledges in the next five years. To that end, I have committed to spending 30% of my time on that effort, about 12 hours a week, to meet with newcomers, hold one-on-ones, and following up with best practices. I am working on an accountability partner for the work and am meeting with a church planner one hour a week to see how we can strategically invite people in the door.

I have written too much and not thanked all the people I should but I will stop and tell you I am grateful for you all.

#### **ASSOCIATE RECTOR** *The Rev. Christopher Phillips*

Over the past twelve months I have been privileged to witness the strength of the bonds of care and affection that unite the people of St. Mark's and sustain us as we celebrate and mourn. It's difficult to describe the fullness of the past year and the resilience that this community demonstrated.

We began 2022 deeply engaged in the careful work of safely reclaiming the practices and rhythms of our community that had been disrupted by COVID. Gradually, bread returned, and we returned receiving communion in the round; worship began to feel more familiar. It was a privilege to work with our COVID response team to make these changes possible: they adapted policies to changing conditions with great sensitivity and worked hard to restore a sense of safety and normalcy.

The start of last year was also marked by preparations for Michele's sabbatical, which began after Easter. I am deeply grateful for the efforts of the Sabbatical Committee and for the support of the wardens and vestry as we worked together to chart a course for St. Mark's during Michele's time away. Helping to lead the parish during the

sabbatical was a time of personal and professional growth, and it was a joy to welcome back some familiar voices, and hear from new ones, as guest preachers.

As Michele has noted, a big part of serving as an Associate Rector is “learning the ins and outs of being a priest in a complex parish setting.” Throughout the past year, I have continued to experience the fullness of parish ministry by preaching, teaching, and providing pastoral care for our community. As my responsibilities have continued to evolve and increase, I am deeply grateful for the invitations and confidence that are extended to me: the joyous lunches at Collington, the insight shared at Sermon Seminar, and the quiet conversations in my office or in hospital rooms.

The past year was significant, and together we have begun the important work of imagining and shaping our future. While some of the challenges and uncertainties of 2022 remain, the St. Mark’s community has consistently demonstrated its resilience. As we begin our Lenten journey together, I look forward to continuing to do the work of seeking and serving Christ in all people, and in doing so grow closer to God and to each other.

#### **ADJUNCT CLERGY** *The Rev. Patricia Catalano*

It continues to be a privilege for me to work with the people of St. Mark’s. I have been serving the parish since May ‘18. A significant part of my work now is as Pastoral Associate, a non-stipendiary position. In ‘22, I served in a variety of roles, including priest, spiritual guide, teacher and pastor. During Michele’s four-month sabbatical, I was hired, on a contract basis, as Liturgical and Pastoral Associate.

Here is are the ministries in which I was involved from February ‘22 to February ‘23:

**Liturgical role:** I preached eleven times between Jan. ‘22-Feb. ‘23 and presided/co-presided with Michele and with Chris the Sundays I preached. I also presided or co-presided with Chris when Michele was away on sabbatical and presided at Joya Cox’s funeral and preached at that of our late Senior Warden, Linell Grundman

#### **Other Ministries**

**Centering Prayer** continues to thrive and has become a strong online ministry. From a small group starting in May ‘18 and meeting in the chancel Thursday mornings, it has grown to include more than 50 people from our local area as well as Nevada, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. We still meet almost every morning at 8. March 19, ‘23 will mark three years 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 2022 was 259 with a total attendance of 4226.

We have created a prayerful community of contemplatives who engage in functional theology on an almost daily basis. Last year we read nine 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 journey with God.

**Christian Education** I co-taught the class on the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson with Marilu Sherer

**Pastoral & Liturgical Associate** From April 24 to August 23, ‘22, I was hired on a contract basis as Associate to assist Christopher during Michele’s sabbatical. After Michele’s return, I have continued in my role as Pastoral Associate, a non-stipendiary position.

Attended Diocesan Convention in January 2023

Attended weekly clergy and staff meetings

#### **DEACON** *The Rev. Thom Sinclair*

As Deacons’ School came to a close in June, the Archdeacon informed me that the bishop would be assigning me to St. Mark’s. Rev. Michele and I met for the first time in late August to assess the fit between St. Mark’s and me and we agreed it seemed like a very good fit. I began attending and observing for a few weeks in September and October before ordination.

My ordination to the diaconate took place, along with 9 others from my diaconal cohort, on Saturday, November 12 at The Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. I served as a deacon for the first time the next day at my

sending parish, St. John's+Lafayette Square. Sunday, November 20 was my first Sunday as your deacon and the first Sunday I preached at St. Mark's.

Deacons serve as part-time, non-stipendiary<sup>1</sup> staff focused on outreach, bringing the hopes, needs and concerns of the world to the church and the church to the world. St. Mark's has a long history of doing this work. My focus, in this short time, has been on understanding existing outreach efforts, getting to know those who are deeply involved and committed to this work, and finding my own ministry with this work at St. Mark's.

I want to thank the parishioners of St. Mark's for their warm welcome to me and my husband Jim. We are happy to be among you.

<sup>1</sup>receiving wages/salary

#### **SEMINARIAN** *Joel Martinez*

My two significant areas of involvement (Faith in Action - through Christian Ed) and broad-based community organizing (WIN) can be found in those reports. I also worked with Doris Burton, Acolyte Coordinator, training our newest volunteers and continue to mentor them as they take their first steps as acolytes.

I will graduate from VTS this spring and be ordained to the diaconate shortly after.

#### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC** *Jeff Kempskie*

The past year has been a continued period of renewal and growth for our music program.

**Chancel Choir** Still in its first season back after the pandemic disruption, the choir was able to resume most of its regular activities while still singing masked. The group sang an evensong service with special music last February, did a simple sung mass setting for *Laetare Sunday* (Lent 4), and prepared music for Holy Week and Easter, when we were again joined by a brass quartet. The group concluded the season with an Evensong service in the beginning of June which was slightly hampered by several COVID cases within the choir. A subset of the group sang for Joya Cox's (ed. former choir director) memorial service in mid-June and we held a choir party at the end of the month. The music program was most fortunate to receive funding for a second paid tenor for 2023. While difficult to find singers partway through the choir season (in January), we were able to hire a few different singers at various times to help fill out our tenor section. By the early summer, we found tenor Nicholas Simons who joined as a regular paid singer and we have benefited from his presence ever since.

The summer choir took place during several Sundays in July and August. In late August we resumed our fall choir retreat during which we had an extended rehearsal in order to get a head-start on the season's music. The group stayed very busy preparing music for regular Sunday mornings while also learning Patrick Hawe's *Beatitudes* and Emerson Eads' *Mass for the Oppressed*. Both were sung for a November 5th concert at which we were joined by several guest singers, soloists, and an orchestra. The performance was a fundraiser for *The Sentencing Project* and was, by all accounts, a success.

The choir finished up the year with an Advent Lessons & Carols in early December (despite Jeff having to miss due to COVID) and a festive Christmas Eve service with brass. The group has continued to sing each Sunday morning in 2023 and is happy to report that it has recently gained some new members. Overall, the last year has been quite a success.

**Children's Choir** continued its second season under the direction of Judith Rautenberg. The group's regular fall retreat was canceled due to illness and was impossible to reschedule. The choir continues to grow and now has nearly 20 children (if they all show up at once), most of them younger than we've had in the past. Unfortunately, inconsistent attendance/participation limited the group's progress, but they learned new music, important skills, and a variety of necessary musical concepts. They sang on several Sunday mornings in the fall, participated in the Advent Lessons & Carols service, and sang during the 4 pm Christmas Eve service.

**Handbell Choir** continued its usual bi-monthly Wednesday rehearsals under the direction of Katherine Anderson and Sarah Headley. The ensemble is currently learning new music, occasionally gaining a new member or two, and continually working on developing its ringing and music-reading skills, all while having fun in the process.

**Instruments & Equipment** The 1959 Holtkamp organ has remained in good working order, only requiring its twice annual tuning over the course of the year. Cleaning and some modest upgrades are on the horizon, but for the time being the organ is doing okay. The Yamaha grand piano was regularly used through July. The Chiarina Chamber Players received a DC grant to purchase a new grand piano and we were lucky that they chose St. Mark's for its home. In late July, a fully rebuilt 1906 Steinway C piano was delivered to the church. Chiarina gave an inaugural performance shortly thereafter. The instrument has been in regular use ever since for both Sundays and concert performances and many have noticed the piano's rich sound and beautiful appearance. The Baxter Hall and Music Studio pianos were used minimally. The church's three digital pianos remain in satisfactory condition. The handbells are in good working order. The harpsichord was not used.

**Music Studio** In-person piano and voice lessons continued with Diane Atherton teaching in the Elders Room one night per week and Anh Ngyuen and Sasha Beresovsky joining us last spring to teach piano. Recitals were held in June and January to give students the opportunity to perform for one another and their friends and family. Anh held some small master classes for her students. In addition, both Anh and Sasha performed their own solo recital/fundraisers over the summer months.

**Other Music-Related Happenings** St. Mark's furthered its role as an important venue for numerous groups in the Washington, DC area. The 21st Century Consort, Folger Consort, Washington Bach Consort, IN Series, Chiarina Chamber Players, Armonia Nova, Valencia Baryton Project, and others performed concerts in our nave. These performances bring in much-needed revenue and have put St. Mark's on the map for the greater DC community.

We held our annual "Carols & Cheer" sing-along in December. In late January, under the leadership of our children's choir director, we offered free "Sandbox" concerts, short musical performances designed specifically for children 5 years old and younger. Both concerts were full and primarily attended by families that did not otherwise attend St. Mark's.

#### **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES** *(YFM) Caleb Nelson Amaker*

YFM returned to in-person programming. We held a Family Eucharist service every month of the school year with student readers and a Children's Reflection by the director. We held a monthly family craft event and a biannual youth retreat. We continued our Bible Storytime Podcast, currently received by 21 households. Each YFM event is designed to be led by a volunteer coordinator working with the Director to plan and facilitate the event. We have several accomplishments to celebrate.

**JANUARY '21:** We tracked attendance and recruited volunteers for spring 2022. We also began work to build a youth leadership council to honor youth opinions in YFM programming.

**FEBRUARY:** We extended our work with Ministry Architects with a focus on program sustainability. We thanked our volunteers from Fall '21 and sent a survey to program families to gauge interest in the youth council. The results (March) showed limited interest in the council. The leadership team decided to postpone its formation to a later date.

**MARCH:** This month saw continued work towards our three-year goal of increasing multigenerational programming. With the help of the Senior Warden, contact was made with a number of parishioners who expressed interest in building this kind of community. YFM volunteer positions for the spring were cataloged and job descriptions updated accordingly. We continued work with Next Step Ministries to explore possibilities for a Summer '22 service trip to Elliott County, TN. In April, 2021-2022 volunteers were asked to commit to positions for the next school year and registration for the summer service trip began. Graduating seniors were identified and invitations sent to their families to gauge interest in a senior send-off service.

**MAY:** YFM sent a mailing to the families in our registry advertising our in-person summer event: three sessions of 'Art in the Garden', our monthly summer arts and crafts program that encourages families to gather to make art and enjoy fellowship. Kris Humphrey and Shay Waye finished their two-year terms on the YFM Leadership team, with Kit Arrington and Ruth Roman joining. We began recruiting volunteers for the '22-'23 school year.

**JUNE:** The summer service trip was canceled due to low registration numbers. Volunteer recruitment for the '22-'23 school year continued, including the addition of positions of coordinators of the family Eucharist volunteers and potential service trips. We held our first 'Art in the Garden' program, a Lego building event.

**JULY:** We began planning our fall kick-off and continued volunteer recruitment with an emphasis on a Christmas pageant coordinator. Planning also began for the Halloween 'Saints and Sinners' dance (October) and Parents Night Out event scheduled for September. We held our second 'Art in the Garden' and updated the YFM database.

**AUGUST:** The first meetings of our multigenerational team were held. The team, consisting of Ruth Roman, Steve Dalzell, and Travis Beatty, was tasked with imagining growth possibilities for multigenerational communities and programs that would support that growth. We also began recruiting volunteer teams to create programs for Family Craft Coffee Hour and Culture Club. In preparation for the upcoming program-year we worked with Christian Education to update their online registration form.

**SEPTEMBER 11:** YFM held our second "Heroes Unite" kick-off party during the parish fair. Invitation zines were sent to families in our database and participants were encouraged to dress in superhero costumes. We offered several activity stations including a cape-making station and a superhero obstacle course. We also had a station for parents where we debuted our retooled mission statement, distributed calendars and allowed parents to register their kids for the year. A volunteer summit was planned and scheduled for January.

**OCTOBER:** We began with a high school lock-in themed "Homecoming." Seven students gathered, played improv games and discussed what it means to be at home. The YFM team also worked on activities for the Halloween Saints and Sinners dance under the leadership of Jan Lipscomb, Julie Murphy and Lisa Ramish.

**NOVEMBER:** We saw the return of our "Parents Night Out" event. This provides a fun space for children while allowing their parents to enjoy an evening off. We organized a balloon pit, bean bag toss, and a coloring and paper airplane station. We ended the evening with movies and a snowman craft project. 29 children attended. A Christmas pageant coordinator was identified and a final pageant script was chosen. Veterans Day weekend, the director joined Kit Arrington and Steve Dalzell of the Navajoland Steering Committee on a trip to Bluff, Utah. We stayed 4 days, met with Rev. Joe Hubbard from St. Christopher's mission as well as community members with the hope of scheduling a summer youth trip. December: The Family Craft team planned family-friendly art projects led by the director. We held a Christmas cookie party the Sunday before Christmas, and, on Christmas Eve, had our first in-person pageant since 2019. More than 20 children participated in an interactive pageant that included roles for parents, newcomers, and parishioners.

**JANUARY:** We began finalizing the spring '23 calendar and drafting of the summer calendar. Working with the Navajoland Steering Committee, we gathered details for the youth trip. We held the first YFM Volunteer Summit. Nine community members gathered to learn about the program, connect with one another, and dream for the future.

Throughout the year, YFM continued to increase its 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' sent out 6 episodes weekly to each family. We continued to connect with families offline by mailing invitations to big events and sending students birthday cards from the Director. We re-tooled our bulletin board with an up-to date calendar, photos, and event sign-ups.

As Director, Caleb Nelson Amaker led in each decision-making process and was assisted and supported by the YFM Leadership Team (Kris Humphrey, Shay Waye, Belinda Sims, Kit Arrington and Ruth Roman. Special thanks go to our event coordinators Belinda Sims, Kit Arrington, Suzanne Wells, Loretta Veney, Frank Nickerson, Shay Waye, Julie Murphy, Lisa Ramish), and all those who volunteered for events.

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

## NOTE FROM THE ARCHIVES AND PARISH HISTORY COMMITTEE

*This Report continues 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 have and stayed home. Despite the availability of vaccines, many Americans refused them 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. A new vaccine may be more palatable to the unvaccinated. In March, the CDC announced masking requirements could be lifted, local jurisdictions deciding when and how that would happen.*

*As this report goes to press (3/2/23), the world has had 6.86+ million deaths and the nation 1,113,254+ deaths from Covid. Additionally, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) has caused hospitalization among children to a serious level (vaccine trials exist). We sincerely hope this is the last year in which the impact of Covid and RSV is included in this report. For additional details of the impact of the pandemic, see Annual Report 2020, 2021, and 2022.*

*Our COVID Response Team (Kit Arrington, Linell Grundman, Josie Jordan, Karen Wiedemann, Joel Wilson) met on an ad hoc basis in 2022. Their work included advising the Rector and the Vestry about changes to protocols for in-person worship and other uses of St. Mark's space, and developing and updating related communications materials for the parish website and e-Gospel.*

## REQUEST

The APHC continues to look for photos and historic materials. If you have anything you think might be of use/interest, please contact us before bringing them to church.

We are also interested in gathering stories from parishioners relating how you fared during the pandemic. We were stunned to find nothing in our archives of how the parish fared during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-1920 and would like to leave records for the future. Please look for fannouncements later this spring.

## LEGACY LIONS

Scilla Adams	Elizabeth Long*
Betsy Athey & Frank Lloyd*	Beryl Maloney Lillaston
Bart Barnes	Randall David Marks
Eileen Blumenthal	Dr. Bertha Martin*
Janice Brown*	Marilyn & Jim* Meeks
Mary Anderson Cooper	Winnie* & Don* Mosher
Joya Cox*	Doris Muller-Burton & Jack*Burton
Kitty Nicholson Donnelly* & Harrison Donnelly	Rita & Matt Ossolinski
Linda & Bob Ewald	David Perry
Karen Falk	Kathryn Powers
Betty & Wes Foster	David Shaw
Raiford Gaffney	Maureen Shea & Kenn Allen
Rob Hall	Marilu Sherer
Penny & Brock* Hansen	Linda Staheli & David Abramowitz
Rosemary Harold & Michael Knipe	James A. Steed*
Tucker* & Jack* Harris	Joseph Tarantolo
Nadine Hathaway	Lil & Arnold* Taylor
Peter Hawley	Sherrill Taylor
JoEllen Hayden & George Meng	Carol Thornhill
Anne & Robert Headley	Susan Thompson
Jan Hoffman*	Louise Walsh & Charlie Rupp
Nora Howell	Mary Welker*
Linda Huntington	Marjorie & David Wellman
Gale & Wayne Johnson	Nat White
Keith Krueger	Gretchen & David Willson
Patricia Latin	

# ST. MARK'S COLUMBARIUM

*In the* **Chapel of the Nazarene**

Established 2007



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St. Mark's: A Brief History by Bert Cooper  
*(adapted with updates by the Archives and Parish History Committee)*

St. Mark's was founded in 1868 by The Rev. Mark Olds, rector of Christ Church+Capitol Hill as a mission church to serve federal workers on Capitol Hill. The founders met in what is today the Sewall-Belmont House at 144 Constitution Ave., NE. This National Historic Landmark was, for 43 years, the headquarters of the historic National Woman's Party and Washington home of the NWP's founder, Alice Paul, radical suffragist leader, author of the Equal Rights Amendment, and lifelong activist for women's rights.

From its founding as Memorial Parish, the community met in a frame structure on the site of the Adams Building of the Library of Congress. In 1869, the Vestry petitioned the diocese (of Maryland) to change the name to St. Mark's, in partial honor after the death of Mark Olds.

In 1871, meetings moved to an old market house on 3<sup>rd</sup> St., SE, before the building was razed to allow for the present structure. Construction began in 1882 and the first service in the new building was held Feb 23, 1889 with the building partially completed in 1894.

As the parish flourished, we became the Pro-Cathedral (temporary seat of the bishop) from 1896-1902 as the newly-created (1895) diocese of Washington began construction of the National Cathedral of St. Peter & St. Paul. A bronze plaque on the tower marks this period.

The church building was constructed in two phases: first the nave, completed in 1894 with the later addition of the chancel, spire, and foyer; then the parish house wing was added in 1926, with a soaring ceiling. In 1965, following restoration of the nave, services moved from the traditional high altar (cathedral seating) to the center where worship has continued since.

In 1990-91, after a legacy campaign, the undercroft was dug (literally 'under the croft' or church) allowing for class and meeting rooms. Previously, Sunday school classes met in an area behind the proscenium of a stage in the parish hall, in spaces created by movable walls (in the parish hall) and in what is today the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor arts (dance) studio, an early parish hall.

In the 1980s, the late Josephine Turner gifted the parish with a brownstone at 114 3<sup>rd</sup> St., SE named Baxter House in honor of Bill Baxter, the 9<sup>th</sup> rector, credited with 'saving' St. Mark's from closure. It housed offices and meeting space until 2012.

By 2010, growth was such that we needed more space and having the staff divided between Baxter House (rector, associate, parish administrator, youth director) and the undercroft (music director & maintenance contractor) was not ideal. After an extensive study, including gathering more than 1000 dreams from the members, a capital campaign was launched and construction began in 2013.

Baxter House was sold, the parish hall floor removed so additional basement space could be constructed; a second floor was built in the parish hall space on which the entire staff could be housed. The \$5M expansion was dedicated by Bishop Marianne Budde on September 14, 2014 in a huge celebratory Eucharist with all the new spaces blessed by her.

While the style of the church is Neo-Romanesque, the stained-glass windows are the stand-out and were a major interest to Bert and Mary Cooper, our first (and still) historians. Most are the work of Mayer of Munich and date from 1888-1947 except for a massive Tiffany window in the baptistery. The clerestory windows are a mix of Mayer, Lamb, Willett, Connick, and Belfield dating from 1981-1998. A generous gift from the estate of Bert Cooper allowed the old Lexan covers to be removed, the windows restored, and visible in a way not seen since their installation (especially notable is the "Angel Choir" window over the high altar which had an extra layer to reduce glare and changed the colors; now, the light is especially appreciated by the choir.)

## NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING



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