



St. Mark's + Capitol Hill

Annual Report

To the Parish

February 28, 2023—March 1, 2024

March 17, 2024

15th Edition

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Note from the Editor: Effective this report: at the 2023 Annual Meeting, the congregation amended the bylaws to allow the annual meeting to be held between Jan 1-Mar 31. As a result, this report is being issued March 17, 2024, nearly 6 weeks after the 2024 annual meeting as it is impossible to have the report ready for a meeting earlier than Mar 1. The report no longer contains the agenda from the meeting, only the minutes of 2023 (approved) and 2024 (to be approved in 2025).

The bylaws will not be included in future reports unless an amendment is proposed.

THE 2024 ELECTION RESULTS:

Senior Warden: James Brooks (2nd year of term)
Junior Warden: Martha Huizenga
Manciple: *open*
Vestry Class of 2027: Elizabeth Becker, Kristina Keenan, Doug Padgett
Treasurer: Doug Ammon
Assistant Treasurer: Roy Phillips
Clerk: Randy Marks
Vestry Counsel: Rosemary Harold
Diocesan Delegates: Tom Getman, J. R. R. Randall

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

Article I Members

101. Members Every person above fifteen years of age is a member of St. Mark's Parish for purposes of an election and has the right to vote if, at some time, in the 12 months preceding an election, that person has made a financial contribution to the Parish AND

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

OR

(b) affirmed her/his wish to be a member in a manner as determined by the Vestry of the Parish.

Article II Parish Meetings

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

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

204. Presiding Officer and Secretary The Rector, or in the Rector's absence or failure to act, the Senior Warden, will call to order and preside at the Annual Meeting. The Clerk will be the Secretary of the meeting. If the Clerk 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. 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. 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 more than 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 Clerk, 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 Clerk, a Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers, and such other officers of the Vestry as the Vestry deems the Parish needs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

502. Powers of the Vestry.

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

B. Specific Powers.

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

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

3. Audit of Parish Books. At its December meeting each year the Vestry will designate

either a Certified Public Accountant or any competent person or persons not directly connected with the financial affairs of the Parish and not Member(s) or Officer(s) of the Vestry to audit the Treasurer's books and records for the then current calendar year.

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

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

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

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

1. act as judges at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, including deciding any issue concerning the inclusion or omission of any person on the list of qualified voters,
2. manage, control, and direct, with power to sell, alienate, encumber, or transfer all property of the Parish as provided in section 502;
3. elect a Rector, Assisting Clergy, Register, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers, Alternate Lay Delegates, and other officers that the Vestry needs.
4. provide necessary books and records for the Register, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers.
5. file before March 1 of each year with the District of Columbia Government a report showing the purposes for which the tax-exempt property of the Parish was used during the preceding year;
6. make rules and regulations for the government and support of the Parish;
7. exercise the powers of a corporation and body politic as prescribed by the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798, as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the laws of the District of Columbia; and
8. sue and be sued on matters involving the Parish.

504. Duties of the Clerk The 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.

505. Duties of the Treasurer

A. Treasurer. The Treasurer will:

1. act under the supervision of the Vestry;
2. except as otherwise directed by the Vestry, have charge and custody of all the monies and valuables of the Parish;
3. be responsible for the keeping of accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and financial transactions of the Parish; and
4. in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as the Vestry may assign to the Treasurer.

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

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

Article VI Rector

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

Article VIII Amendments

701. Procedures. The members of the Parish may amend, modify, or repeal these By-Laws by vote of two-thirds of the members of the Parish voting at any Annual 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.

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: 15-year-olds eligible to vote in parish elections (discovered 6/2022)

April 7, 1972: creates committees; limits wardens' terms to 2 years; limits Vestry/wardens' service to 5 years; requires Vestry member complete their term or resign[does not fix a date] before running for warden; diocesan delegate to attend diocesan convocation; revises language when Vestry term changed from 8 members for 4-year terms to 9 members for 3-year terms (discovered 2/8/23)

April 23, 1976 *unknown*

April 15, 1977 *Unknown*

April 16, 1982: Art I: removed the \$2 contribution requirement to vote; *voided 3/15/15*; Sec 301A: Added 'any clergy or deacon at St. Mark's has a seat on the Vestry but cannot vote Art. IV.A4: Vestry can direct the actions of the Treasurer (discovered 2/8/23 in Rev. Abernathy's files)

1985: date of annual meeting set: 1st Friday in February or before Ash Wednesday, whichever is earlier

April 8, 1988 *unknown*

April 19, 2004: Sec 405B: election of Diocesan Delegates; some 90 minor stylistic changes; 7 changes approved but not identified

April 19, 2009: Sec 201: established new date(s) of Annual Meeting on 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2010: Sec 101: definition of member

March 26, 2017: Sec 404A: Wardens' term changed from 1-2 years with opt. 1-year extension

March 5, 2023: 4 amendments: Sec 201 changed date of Annual Meeting; Sec 202/204 allowing virtual/hybrid meetings; Sec 204/405A/504 change Register to Clerk; Sec 701 allow bylaw amendments at Special meetings of the Parish



St. Mark's Banner, Jacquie Binns, English Liturgical artist,
given in memory of Georgia Jackson

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

March 5, 2023

Draft - for approval at the 2024 Annual Meeting¹

The Annual Meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom video conferencing platform. The Rector, Rev. Michele Morgan, opened the meeting. The Rev. Christopher Phillips, Associate Rector, led the opening prayer.

The Register, Shay Waye, announced the presence of a quorum (64). A two-thirds majority was 83. Attendance online and present was 127.

Approval of the Minutes: The March 27, 2022 minutes were reviewed. There was a friendly amendment: to remove Doris Burton's name having moved adjourning the meeting as she indicated she was not present. Correction was noted. Minutes of the March 27, 2022 minutes were then approved.

Acknowledgement of the Annual Report: The Rector thanked Doris Burton for her work in preparing the Annual Meeting Report. The Senior Warden also thanked Doris and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

State of the Parish - Part 1.

Senior Warden's Report - Louise Walsh

Bylaws Revision²

1. Changing the Date of Annual Meeting, Rationale on revision was made and discussed. Motion passed to change the date of the Annual meeting to earlier in the year.
2. Authorize virtual/hybrid Meeting. Rationale on revision was made and discussed. Motion passed to authorize virtual/hybrid meetings
3. Title change of register to clerk. Rationale on title change of register to clerk was made and discussed. Motion passed to change register to clerk.
4. Allowing special meeting to amend bylaws. Rationale on revision was made and discussed. Friendly amendment to add "Annual or Special" to revision. Motion passed to amend bylaws to read, "Allowing Special or Annual meeting to amend bylaws."

State of the Parish - Part 2.

Christian Education - Greg Niblett, Christian Education Team

Financial Report - Randy Marks, Treasurer

Elections. Ken Allen, Chair of the Nominating Committee presided over Vestry nominations:

1. Jim Brooks was announced as a candidate for the position of Senior Warden. Additional nominations the floor were called. Seeing none, a motion (Rob Hall) was made and seconded (David Deutsch) nominating Jim Brooks as Senior Warden. Motion (David Deutsch) and seconded (Jane Byrne) to elect Jim Brooks as Senior Warden by acclamation. Motion carried.
2. Todd Thorpe was announced as a candidate for the position of Vestry for a 3-year term. Additional nominations from the floor were called. Seeing none, it was moved (Doris Burton) and seconded (Jan Lipscomb) to nominate Todd Thorpe to Vestry, 3-year term. Motion carried.
3. Meg Platt was announced as a candidate for the position of Vestry, 3-year term. Additional nominations from the floor were called. Seeing none, it was moved (Nat White) and seconded (Marika Klein) to nominate Meg Platt to Vestry, 3-year term. Motion carried.
4. Travis Beaty was announced as a candidate for the position of Vestry, 3-year term. Additional nominations from the floor were called for. Seeing none, it was moved (Jeb Ory) and seconded (Rita Ossolinski) to nominate Travis Beaty to Vestry, 3-year term. Motion carried.
It was moved (David Deutsch) and seconded (Marika Klein) to close nominations of Vestry members. Carried.
It was moved (Doris Burton) and seconded (Pam Lacey) to elect the three nominees - Todd Thorpe, Meg Platt, and Travis Beaty as Vestry members for a 3-year term by acclamation. Motion carried.

The newly-elected Senior Warden and Vestry members were introduced and given time to make brief remarks.

Maureen Shea was announced as a candidate for the position of diocesan delegate for a 1-year term. Additional nominations from the floor were called. Seeing none, it was moved (Michele Morgan) and seconded (David Deutsch) to nominate Maureen Shea as diocesan delegate, 1-year term. Motion carried. It was moved (David Deutsch) and seconded (Rob Hall) to elect Maureen Shea as diocesan delegate, 1-year term by acclamation. Motion carried.

It was moved (Rob Hall) and seconded (Doris Burton) to close elections. Motion carried.

Michele thanked the nominating committee.

State of the Parish - Part 3.

Rector's Report - Michele Morgan

Acknowledgement and Presentation of Gifts: Michele acknowledged the technology team, instrumental in today's hybrid meeting. The Vestry class of 2023 - Edna Boone, Fritz Henn, and Brent Buckley - were acknowledged and thanked for their service.

The closing prayer and blessing was given by Rev. Michele Morgan.

Adjournment: It was moved (Matt Ossolinski) and seconded (Nancy Yanish) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shay D. Waye
Clerk

¹ The Minutes were approved at the Annual Meeting, Feb 4, 2024.

² The full text of the amendments has been incorporated into the bylaws as they appear in this report

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING **February 4, 2024** Draft—For approval at the 2025 Annual Meeting

The annual parish meeting was called to order by the Rector. The opening prayer was offered by The Rev. Thom Sinclair.

The presence of a quorum was announced by Mary Cooper, temporary clerk. There were 140 voting members on site and 15 attending remotely.

The minutes of the 2023 meeting were approved with Rob Hall moving and David Deutsch seconding approval.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES: The members of the Nominating Committee were retiring Vestry members Jeb Ory, Chris Berendes, and Katherine Buchanan. Chris Berendes reported eight candidates for Vestry and Junior Warden, representing the diversity of the parish membership. He expressed gratitude from the Committee for those who had stepped up to assume positions of leadership.

Jeb Ory presided over the election process, noting that this was the first contested election since 2014.

ELECTION OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN: Martha Huizenga was nominated by the Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, she was elected by acclamation.

DIOCESAN DELEGATES: Katherine Buchanan and J.R. Randall were nominated by the Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, they were elected by acclamation.

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY: The names of the six candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee were proposed. There being no nominations from the floor, the six nominees each spoke briefly about their interest in serving on the Vestry and responded to a single question posed by the Nominating Committee. The nominees were: Kristina Keenan, Amilcar Portillo, Elizabeth Becker, Doug Padgett, Janet Vail, and Mitchell Wood.

The voting process was explained which allowed members to vote either in person or remotely and by paper ballot or electronically.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: While the votes were being counted, Jim Brooks addressed the meeting, expressing his appreciation to the Rector for the smooth process for operating the Annual Parish Meeting and to The Rev. Christopher Phillips for his service to the parish as he departs to become Rector of Redeemer+Bethesda. Jim also expressed appreciation for retiring Junior Warden, David Wellman, for retiring Vestry members Chris Berendes, Katherine Buchanan, and Jeb Ory, as well as retiring Treasurer Randy Marks, Clerk Shay Waye, and Diocesan Delegate Mary Nesnick. He thanked David Deutsch and Karen Falk for preparing the summary report distributed at the meeting.

The Senior Warden noted that the parish is bouncing back from the Covid lockdown with attendance having recently increased by 20%. However, membership is essentially flat and needs to grow. He reported the Vestry anticipated a small financial deficit for 2023 but there is actually a small surplus. The budget has been just over \$1 million for each of the last three years.

Among the signs of health he mentioned were outreach by the dance studio, support for immigrants, and the development of a new men's group. Many small groups are expanding. The parish retreat will return in June for the first time since the lockdown.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Retiring Junior Warden David Wellman reported that the building is safer. There are new thermostats and locks throughout as well as a new fire monitor. The Department of Homeland Security did a safety assessment and is helping with the cost of improvements. The closets have been cleaned out. Lighting in the nave still needs improvement. He expressed his appreciation for Parish Administrator Michael Gravlee for his support and assistance. The parish thanked David for his service with a standing ovation.

PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS:

Christian Education: Annabelle Swift, Co-Director of Christian Education reported there are about 300 people signed up for classes and invited parishioners to join or suggest classes.

Social Justice: Edna Boone, Holly Kreuter, and Julie Murphy reported that the Social Justice Committee (formerly Outreach) seeks to lead St. Mark's in caring for vulnerable people through groups such as Everyone Home DC, Incarceration Justice, Gun Violence Reduction, Support for Migrants, Grate Patrol, Samaritan Ministry, collecting clothing and shoes for immigrants, and providing lunches for needy people.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Retiring Treasurer Randy Marks presented his report remotely from Asia, expressing his thanks to Bill Jordan and Frank Nickerson for their service to the Finance Committee and to Annick Milde (Financial Officer) for her support and assistance. He reported the budget had a small surplus in 2023 and the pledge goal had been met. Plate offerings did well and everyone stayed within budget. The Finance Committee has a list of places where additional funds could usefully be spent if additional income develops.

ELECTION RESULTS: The tellers announced the people elected to the Vestry for the next three years are: Doug Padgett, Kristina Keenan, and Elizabeth Becker.

The Rector presented gifts to the retiring Vestry members, officers, and Finance Committee leaders.

The closing prayer was offered by The Rev. Christopher Phillips and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper

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 ¹	174	Kim Bayliss
March 14, 2021 ¹	176 devices/417	Kim Bayliss
March 27, 2022 ²	108 online	Kim Bayliss
March 5, 2023	64/127 online	Shay Waye
February 4, 2024	140/15 online	Mary Anderson Cooper

¹Because of Covid-19 shut-down mid-March, 2020, the next two annual meetings were held on zoom.

²The count in 2021 was difficult to manage and should not be considered accurate. The 2022 meeting was hybrid and only devices were counted.



St. Mark window, chancel clerestory

VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN *Jim Brooks (no report)*

JUNIOR WARDEN *David Wellman*

The Junior Warden is responsible for the use and upkeep of our building. Overall, I believe our facilities are in good shape. Our property-related financial categories accounts for about 20% of the annual budget. In 2023 we expended 98% of our budget in these building-related accounts.

We are hosting more activities in our building as we move beyond the Covid shutdown. This has increased our need for more cleaning and light repairs. In the last year we hired a new janitorial firm to clean. To reduce costs, we buy cleaning supplies and paper goods through a Cooperative.

Fall 2023: We received notification of a \$150,000 grant from the Dept. of Homeland Security to improve safety and security. The projects approved include: repairing our historic nave doors, installing new security hardware, installing lighting and cameras in our courtyard, and developing emergency response plans. This grant is a reimbursement type which requires us to perform the work before seeking reimbursement. We expect the work to occur in the latter half of 2024 and into 2025.

We also addressed security by rekeying 118 sets of doors in our facility and instituting management protocols to better track the distribution of new keys. This work included installing keypad locksets at our classrooms so we no longer need to distribute keys

We made a variety of repairs to maintain our building: work on our HVAC system included replacing a pump in the boiler system, replacing the heating core in the air handling unit serving Baxter Hall, and installing a UV sterilizer in the Elder's Room ductwork to reduce odors. We also replaced the freezer in the kitchen. Exterior work included trimming and fertilizing the trees in the courtyard.

With the help of the Endowment, we purchased a large flat-screen TV, a soundbar and a mobile cart to facilitate the hybrid classes and meetings that have become common. We purchased an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) and held a training session on its use. The AED is in the Foster Foyer adjacent to the restrooms. We hope to offer more classes for this lifesaving device in 2024.

As Junior Warden, I appreciate the help of many people keeping our building repaired and looking good. I thank Martha Huizenga, Manciple, for sharing the workload and independently managing much needed projects, and Jim Pittman, former Junior Warden (2018-2021), for help with repairs.

Michael Gravlee, Parish Administrator, has been invaluable fixing things when they break and in scheduling and managing our contractors. Charlie Rupp (JW, 1989-91) has freely shared his knowledge of the building and stepped up with his expertise of our building's fabric when problems arose.

Thanks to Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea for keeping the 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 thanks to my Fabric Committee, Martha Huizenga, Jim Pittman, Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Charlie Rupp, John Edwards, Don Gangloff, Michael Summey, Jack Richards and Melissa Zimmerman for their advice and counsel.

Finally, I would like to thank Reverends Michele and Chris for their encouragement and support.

MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY MARCH 2023-FEBRUARY 2024 Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of Action is listed by month-year (03-13=March 2013)	
03-23	N/A (Parish Annual Meeting)
04-23	VA: David Wilson/Hank Donnelly appointed money counters
05-23	No Actions
06-23	VA: Authorized clergy to regularly schedule liturgy for parishioners to commit to membership by taking vows; to be determined by Membership Committee in conjunction with the clergy
07-23	VA: Approves Nick Simmons as risk manager VA: Outreach Board renamed the Services and Social Justice Board VA: All references to Outreach Board in the Outreach Board charter (adopted 2018) shall be changed to "Services and Social Justice Board."
08-23	No actions
09-23	VA: Accept the 2022 Audit VA: Authorize Helen Nelson as Auditor
10-23	VA: Established new Bequests Policy: Unless a donor indicates a contrary intent or there is a pressing financial need, bequests will be transferred to Building Reserve. To implement the policy, the Treasurer shall inform the Vestry of their intention to make such transfer, absent contrary Vestry direction; VA: Transferred a bequest of \$34,617 to the Building Reserve Fund.
11-23	No actions
12-23	No actions
01-24	VA: Approved 2024 Budget. VA: Approved recommendations for spending later in '24 if funds available
02-24	VA: Approved appointment of officers. VA: Approved expansion of use of Penniman Designated Fund. VA: Authorized signatories on Vestry Reserve Accounts held by Vanguard. VA: Increased the compensation of Director of Youth and Family Ministries reflecting expanded responsibility of running Sunday school

FINANCE COMMITTEE Randy Marks (Treasurer, chair);, Bill Jordan, Assistant Treasurer; Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests; Mary Cooper, Secretary; Jim Brooks, Senior Warden; Dave Wellman, Junior Warden; Hank Donnelly, Vestry Liaison; Chris Berendes, Vestry; Rev. Michele Morgan: Rev, Chris Phillips; Annick Milde, Finance Administrator; Nick Simons; Lawrence Lokken; Kenn Allen resigned in August 2023 after many faithful years of service.

Duties: The committee meets monthly and has these responsibilities:

- Review the finances monthly with an in-depth, mid-year review and report of its analysis to the Vestry.
- Recommend the annual budget to the Vestry.
- Monitor the financial operations and make necessary policy recommendations to the Vestry.
- Assist and advise the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer(s). Ideally, serve as a source of talent to fill these positions.

2023 Financial Results

	2023 Actual	% of Budget	2023 Budget
Pledge Income	\$846,798	103%	\$823,000
Non-Pledge Income	\$197,368	118%	\$166,050
Non-Budgeted Income	\$163,881	NA	NA
Total Income	\$1,208,048	122%	\$989,050
Administration	\$69,128	95%	\$72,610
Compensation	\$669,236	99%	\$675,009
Ministry Outside	\$69,984	100%	\$70,000
Parochial Ministry	\$27,463	72%	\$38,145
Property	\$211,571	98%	\$215,000
Non-Budgeted Expenses	\$148,124	NA	NA
Total Expenses	\$1,195,507	106%	\$1,070,764
Surplus/Deficit: Total	\$12,542	NA	-\$81,714
Deficit: Budgeted Accounts	-\$3,215	NA	-\$81,714

These figures differ from our official “books” figure, because those contain a distorted figure for interest income that corrects past accounting errors. The figures in this chart reflect the actual amount of interest income we received.

Parish Financial Condition (as of December 31, 2023)

All Checking Accounts: \$ 537,332
 Vestry Checking Account: \$ 407,705
 Vanguard Accounts: \$1, 739,327
 Endowment Accounts: \$1 ,223,139
 Reserve Accounts: \$ 661,739

Liabilities:	\$ 110,461
Equity Accounts:	
Donor Restricted Funds:	\$ 405,264
Endowment:	\$ 384,767
Penniman:	\$ 20,497
Vestry Restricted Funds:	\$1,621,668
Endowment:	\$ 838,372
Reserves:	\$ 661,737
Satellite Funds:	\$ 121,559
Building Improvements Value:	\$ 7,964,569

Unrestricted Net Assets and Net Income: \$ 313,400

2024 Budget *Vestry approved 1/23/2024*

Income includes Excess 2023 Pledge Payments:

2023 Budget assumed 2023 Payments on 2024 Pledges would be \$137,000.

They were actually \$161,589 or \$24,589 in excess of budget. We will receive \$24,589 less in payments on 2024 pledges than we might otherwise have expected.

The Vestry decided to include the \$24,89 in excess pledges as 2024 Income.

Financial Highlights

- We received a clean audit for our 2022 financial statements meaning they accurately reflected the church's financial condition and results. We used a new auditor who performed very well.
- We filed for Employee Retention Tax Credit, which may lead to a large cash inflow towards the end of 2024.
- All reserves (operating, building, sabbatical) are invested in Vanguard Star Funds in hopes of generating higher returns over the long term.
- The Vestry adopted a policy that, absent contrary donor intent or other extraordinary conditions, all bequests will go into the Building Reserve Fund.
- Working with the Endowment Board, we have begun to utilize better available resources from the Endowment.
- We re-established our financial relationship with our Satellite Organizations (Dance, Music Studio, Yoga, Meditation, Players), all of which contributed generously in 2023 and have committed to do so in 2024.
- We made changes to increase transparency:
- We stopped using pass-through accounts, meaning that all income and expenses are reported in our financial reports.
- We separated Non-Budgeted Income and Expense accounts from budgeted accounts so the parts that Parish Managers and Staff manage were clearer.
- We made periodic reports to the parish via the E-Gospel and Weekly Announcements.
- We have raised concerns about the parish's long-term stability for Vestry and parish to consider: Pledge, plate, & building use income seem to be inadequate to fund high Core Expenses (for staff & building) and vibrant programs and outside ministries (Service & Social Justice and diocesan pledge).
- We need \$1 million per decade to maintain our building.
- It's unclear whether healthy growth can close the gap.
- We may need a new strategic vision with new income sources or lower expenses.

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY

RACE AND RECONCILIATION *inactive*

ENDOWMENT *Kim Bayliss and Karen Wiedemann, Co-Chairs; Matt Ossolinski (Architect), Michael Summey (Treasurer), Malissa Zimmerman (Secretary); ex officio members: Rev. Michele Morgan, James Brooks, Senior Warden, David Wellman, Junior Warden, Randy Marks, Treasurer.*

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

A five-member board, approved by the Vestry, manages the Endowment. Their responsibilities include establishing individual Endowment Funds; accepting gifts, bequests and donations; investing the funds in a diverse and balanced portfolio in order to achieve stable growth; and distributing the fund's 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 2023, the fund had an annual return of 17.1% (compared to a return of 24% 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 that 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; fund provides for improvements to church facilities.

Hoitsma Fund: Est. 1981/gift from the Hoitsma family; provides for long-term building improvements not covered by the operating budget. (Ralph Hoitsma: SW, 1968-1971; JW, 1965-68)

General 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 clerestory window; 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, gift from the Craighill family; supports the St. Mark's Dance Studio and includes the Beryl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for promising dancers. (Mary Craighill was the founder of the dance studio)

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.

2023 Activity; Fund Balances; 2024 Distributable Amounts

In 2023, the Endowment paid out a total of almost \$43,000 for a variety of different projects, including digitizing parish records, rekeying the doors, building and equipment repairs, repair and polishing of the Victorian floor candelabra, and scholarship funds.

The table summarizes all activity (contributions and distributions) in each of the Endowment funds in 2023, as well as the corpus of each fund at December 31, 2023, and distributable amounts in 2024 based on the formula described above.

FUND	2023 ACTIVITY	12/31/23 BALANCE	2024 DISTRIBUTABLE AMOUNT
Building Preservation	\$4,381 for consultant to help develop plans to repair and refinish nave doors	\$308,517	\$55,567
Hoitsma Fund	\$9,952 for expense of re-keying the building	\$251,561	\$61,646
General	\$23,498 (digitize parish archives, repair brass candelabra, support FEMA grant application, develop emergency response plan, acquire TV stand)	\$174,620	\$43,826
Dozier Scholarship	\$5,000 for scholarships	\$ 72,380	\$13,868
Craighill Dance		\$259,080	\$79,162
Arts Fund		\$ 96,155	\$46,505
Holtkamp Organ		\$60,826	\$26,180



The lion of St. Mark,
patron saint of Venice, Italy

CANVAS/STEWARDSHIP *Katherine Buchanan and Meg Platt, Co-chairs; Christopher Berendes, Jim Brooks; assistance from Todd Thorpe, Annabelle Swift, Jeb Ory, Jan Lipscomb, Jackie Bodie, Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea, Amber McDonald, Annick Milde (Financial Officer), and Michael Gravlee (Parish Administrator), The Rev. Michele Morgan, The Rev. Chris Phillips.*

Our Stewardship Canvass for securing 2024 pledges was “Knitting the Canopy Together” and found its inspiration in Jesus’ call to abide together, echoing our unwavering commitment to nurturing community and spreading God’s grace and love. Our aim was ambitious: to collect \$1 million in pledges for 2024 to sustain our building, provide for our clergy and staff, and continue to offer opportunities for parishioners and community members to connect through fellowship, music, Christian education, social justice, and other avenues.

For the pledge drive, we have yet to realize our goal. We have, so far (February 2024) received 246 pledge units with pledged sums totaling \$899,286. We are encouraged by the increase in both pledged units and income from the 2023 Canvass, which had 238 pledging units by February 2023 and \$840,230 in pledged funds—which, as of February 2024, \$829,454 of the pledged \$840,230 has been fulfilled (and more anticipated to arrive in the months ahead). In 2024, we expect additional pledges and meaningful stewardship by the community to continue to trickle in. We will work actively throughout the spring, summer, and fall to cultivate further engagement.

As a committee, we are pleased with the results, which show marked growth over 2023. Given unexpected gifts that arrived in 2023 and changes in staffing in 2024, we expect the total expected income will provide for our needs. Still, we plan to continue our work throughout 2024 to deepen engagement—both personally and financially—so that we might increase the impact of our beloved community here on Capitol Hill.

MEMBERSHIP *Jeb Ory (Chair), Karen Falk, Treasurer; Members: Todd Thorpe, Jeremy Sierra, Randy Marks, Kenn Allen, Amber Macdonald, Mitch Wood.*

This past year, the Membership Committee focused on consistent execution of its mission:

To develop, implement, administer, monitor, refine and revise a year-round program for membership emphasizing our promise and commitment to provide a home and a community for parishioners and visitors alike. There are three guiding principles for the committee:

1. Membership is a year-round activity with a continual year-round focus.
2. Growing membership requires ambitious goals and buy-in and engagement from the entire parish, and particularly, from clergy, lay leaders, and staff.
3. Growing (and sustaining) membership depends on progressively increasing the engagement of each member in St. Mark’s community, including involvement in worship, classes, events, and committee work.

The Committee meets monthly with an annual kick-off each January. Our goals for 2024 are to increase pledge units by 10% (up to 275), increase church attendance by 20% (up to 12,660, and to identify and grow our volunteer pool by 25%.

We have brought specific focus to seven major campaigns / events throughout the year:

- Planning and execution for public awareness for Easter/ Holy Week
- Engaging new and lapsed members for feedback
- Small steps for growth
- Planning and attending 4th of July Parade
- Planning and execution for public awareness of Back to Church and Blessing of the Animals
- Planning and execution of the Liturgy of Commitment
- Planning and execution for public awareness for Advent / Christmas

We continue putting out the welcome table, inviting people in, and envisioning a 2024 where we have greeters outside the nave doors to make sure that all who enter are welcomed.

Get ready to see more smiles! Our church is buzzing with the joy of growing families, and it's touchin-

gall aspects of our ministry. From our vibrant Sunday School program to the exciting children's choir, and an expanding focus on youth and family, we're connecting more parents and children with the St. Mark's community than ever before.

Want to be a part of this positive growth? We're seeking friendly faces to join our welcoming committee! Whether you're interested in becoming a member or simply want to greet people arriving for Sunday services, we can use your help. Just a few minutes of your time can make a big difference. Email membership@stmarks.net or just come help welcome people in!

MEMBERSHIP							
Year	Pledge units	Pledges Adults	Child/pledging Members	Visitors	Ave. Sunday Attendance	Baptized Members ²	Communicants/Good Standing ³
2004 ⁴	340						
2005	328						
2006	384						
2007	419						
2008	390					830	
2009	362	534	137	233	291	+31/-5=856 ⁵	654 (536A/128Y) ⁶
2010	379	559	142	399	284	+28/-2=882	676 (541A/135Y)
2011	390	572	143	227	319	+27/-7=902	715 (572A/143Y)
2012	345	513	145	160	296	+22/-25=899	720 (575A/145Y)
2013	335	494	109	76	287	+36/-15=920	740 (580A/160Y)
2104	331	483	103	135	269	+21/-2=939	759 (582A/177Y)
2015	297	430	n/a	n/a	262	+31/-362 =608 ⁷	608 (377A/231Y)
2016	309	443	153	108	274	+13/-3 =618	618 (375A/243Y)
2017	326	463	103	106	279	+25/-7=635	635 (375A/260Y)
2018	331	477	123	155	284	+22/-6=651	651(371A/280Y)
2019	272	520	342	161	284	+26/-15=662	662(520A/142Y)
2020 ⁸	285	414	156	16	291	+20/-21+=570	570(414A+156Y)
2021	248	362	36	86	212	+21/16+=575	570(441A+156Y)
2022	254	356	34	26	172	+5/-11=569	⁹
2023	246	341	0	2	197	+6/-12=563	⁹

1

Age 18/younger

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

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

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

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

⁶ A(A)dults/Y(Y)outh

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

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

⁹ This information was not calculated as earlier numbers are thought to be inaccurate. This information will not appear in future reports until accurate numbers can be determined. If not, the column will be eliminated.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP *Chris Berendes, Edna Boone*

There were two major new efforts this year, both collaborative. Edna Boone, unofficial CWG member, identified 77 key web pages and worked with clergy, staff, and parish groups to get most of them - at least 80% - updated. Building on a first effort for Christmas 2023, we created a continually updated Sunday Services page, stmarks.net/sundays, with a detailed introduction to worship for first time visitors. We also created specific urls and QR-codes for printed publicity - our Christmas banner, yard signs, and door hangers - as a first effort to determine whether printed publicity translates into visits to stmarks.net.

As in years before, we added or edited 20 or more posts monthly to keep stmarks.net in sync with the E-gospel and with the announcements distributed on Sundays.

To support a large number of hybrid activities, we maintain stable, friendly web links for Sunday services, memorials (now generally live-streamed), and special events, such as a criminal justice-related meeting with Council Member Charles Allen.

Visits/Users per week

2021 653

2022 520

2023 354 (Users, a new measure, not directly comparable with the above)

Over the course of a year, 56% of the pages viewed help visitors track upcoming activities at St Marks (announcements, events, calendar), 7% of the page views relate specifically to Sundays (worship schedule, livestream, bulletins) and 6% to staff contacts and our vision statement.

DIOCESEAN CONVENTION (Jan 27, 2024); *Thomas Getman, Mary Nezenk, Lay Delegates; Rev. Michele Morgan, Rev. Patricia Catalano, Clergy.*

The Committee for Reparations report provided findings on the benefits to churches through the institution of chattel slavery. Rev. Peter Schell (Calvary+DC) reported the legacy of ongoing financial inequity of parishes in terms of endowment, per capita resources for clergy and distribution of wealth for developing reparations policy proposals.

The Report on Committee on Congregation Diocesan Stewardship and Support: Rev. Jessica Hitchcock, St Luke's+Bethesda: reported establishing a 'normative standard of annual financial commitment of a tithe of annual operating income in the direction of 10% as a canonical expectation.'

Resolutions Adopted:

1. Parishes with deacons pay into the Church Pension Group a minimum of qualifying rate of \$25 per month plus assessment of 18% (\$25 + \$4.50 or \$29.50 per church per month for total of \$354 annually to ensure their service credit for years served.
2. Sacred Ground be established as one means of fulfilling required anti-racism training.
3. Migration with Dignity: EDOW advocates for Migration with Dignity, a set of immigration policies that assure equal and respectful treatment of all people including all migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, those who cross borders in search of opportunity in order to guarantee their welcome, protection and integration into our 'common human journey.'
4. Conditioning US Military Aid to Israel (introduced by delegate Thomas Getman): to ensure that US military assistance and arms not be used to perpetuate conflict, violate human rights or contribute to corruption, instability of violence.
5. In Solidarity with International Palestinian Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Movement (introduced by delegate Mary Nezenk): Modeling 2018 TEC resolution, EDOW will follow that policy to use corporate screen with companies profiting on illegal occupation of Palestinian land as means to ensure Israel complies with international law.

Note: We had been entitled to three delegates until Covid. Because our population was reduced, we now send only two delegates to Convention.

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 4-6 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 2023 there were three active Advisory Committees:

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

Seminarian's Advisory Committee for Joel Martinez (Rita Ossolinski, *Convenor*; concluded in May 2023)

Associate Rector's Advisory Committee (Greg Niblett, *Convenor*; concluded in February 2024)

If you are interested in being considered to serve, contact the Chair at atheylloyd@comcast.net.

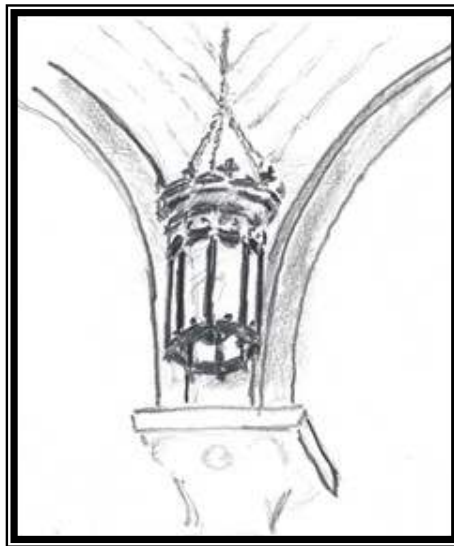
ELDERS *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, Conveners*

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, usually in the spring.

There are currently 55 Elders living in the area and active. Nationwide, 66 remain in contact and many continue to be deeply involved in church activities.

In September, we convened to enjoy our annual dinner. 28 Elders and spouses, along with Michele Morgan, attended. We honored our retiring Interim Senior Warden Louise Walsh, Co-Directors Keith Krueger, Karen Falk and continuing Co-Director Greg Niblett, and inducted/re-inducted them with deep gratitude and celebration into the Elders' ranks.

The Pilot Project for Lay Involvement in Worship Planning, started by the Elders, continued through 9 Sundays in 2023 and is expected to continue in 2024 (*See Pillars: Worship for details*)





REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP Convener: *open*: Laying on of Hands *Adjunct Clergy*; 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 *Joe Tarantolo (9), Marshall Thorpe (11:15)*; Chalice Bearers *inactive*; Readers Guild *Maureen Shea (9), Andrew Stafford (11;)* Morning Prayer *Chris Berendes & Elin Whitney-Smith*,

Vergers *Josie Jordan, Head Verger* A verger's duty is to ensure that the clergy and worship participants have everything they need to fully participate in the service. From distributing bulletins to setting up the sound system and marking the Gospel book, vergers oversee and manage the many parts of each worship service. The 2023 Verger Corps had ten members across the three weekly services. In addition to overseeing all of the regular services, members of the corps served at eleven memorial services.

Liturgy Planning: Lay Involvement in Worship Planning: *Betsy Athey, Nat White, Nadine Hathaway, Louise Walsh, Steering Committee*

The Pilot Project for Lay Involvement in Worship Planning was conceived by a group of elders in the summer of 2022 for the purpose of expanding lay involvement in planning new, creative, inclusive and diverse services as a new iteration of our "Shared Ministry" and "Radical Welcome" ethos.

In January, February and March 2023, six new and diverse services (for Epiphany and Lent) were created and produced by four lay teams, each in collaboration with clergy, preachers and our Music Director. Each lay team included a leader and 4-5 members, most of whom had no prior experience planning liturgies or services and met via Zoom. Each Sunday Bulletin offered an attached Evaluation Questionnaire. Over a hundred were returned by congregants who, overwhelmingly, 'liked' the services, offered critiques, ideas and asked for "more."

The Pilot thus became an Ongoing Project, which continued in December 2023 with 3 separate teams creating Advent 1, 2, and 3 services. Again, the new lay participation, numbering 30 lay volunteer team members in 2023, met with enthusiastic support from the questionnaires, parishioners, clergy, preachers and Music Director.

It is anticipated this Project will continue into 2024. Thanks to all who have supported this!

If interested in joining a future team, contact Betsy Athey atheylloyd@comcast.net

Greening:

Easter: Stephanie Deutsch, Susan Ryerson, Bridey Heing and Jason Wallis

We visited Potomac Floral Wholesale, Linden Lane, Silver Spring the week before Easter to select flowers from the massive amount available! Our aim was to spend \$350 or less as last year; instead, we spent about \$450. We were able to work Holy Saturday morning and spent much of the day.

Thanks to Susan's participation, we had access to the sacristy and its supplies/tools. We did learn several things useful to future greeners: (a) freesias tend to wilt as do hydrangeas (b) the staff needs to know the flowers will be delivered on Friday (c) the high altar is challenging (we chose cherry blossom branches and they didn't show up well; the wholesaler didn't have big branches) (d) nandina is a good filler and there is lots of it on the Hill (e) extra flowers can be used on the table by the entrance.

We came back early in the week after to take the flowers home and put the vases back in the Sacristy.

Christmas Greening was a smaller effort this year because Advent IV and Christmas Eve were the same day. Décor was minimal and led by Doris Burton, Bridey Heing, Jason Wallis, and Jason Campbell.

Bridey, Jason, and Michael Knipe hung the wreaths on the exterior doors with blue bows for Advent on the Saturday before Advent I and changed them to gold for Christmas. Mary Cooper once again installed Chrismons on two trees, and Maureen Shea presided over the set-up of the crèche, created by Betty Foster. The Advent wreath, a gift from Scilla Adams in the 1980s, was located next to the crèche instead of over the altar. There is conversation re: its location for 2024 as its liturgical significance gets lost when it's off center.

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 work done in 2021 on lighting was used to great effect this year: one vergers on the light board and one managing the service. "Silent Night" by candlelight, was, once again, was extremely moving.

Altar Guild *Susan Ryerson, Doris Burton, Co-Sacristans.* We continue to work as singles instead of our former pairs. Guild members may choose to have a partner. Most of the brass has now been repaired and re-lacquered. The 19th C floor candelabra was the last to be done by Brass ArtCrafts of Annapolis which closed in August (a few smaller pieces, not used very often, remain to be polished). The Endowment Board approved up to \$3600 to repair and polish the floor candelabra but the actual cost ended up at \$4780 since they needed more repair than first thought. We will be creating rules for their use by parishioners and renters to reduce damage. We now use a company located in Kensington for repairs and polishing.

We are working on a design for new green paraments as ours are faded and worn. When in England, Nov '23, Doris met with Jacquie Binns (banner designer) and initial designs were discussed. We will likely need financial support from the Endowment for this project but the hangings, which usually last for 30+ years, should be supported.

The purple stoles for Lent were repaired by Susan Ryerson as some of the original tassels were lost so were replaced with fringe.

This year for Lent, we replaced all the silver and brass with pottery and wood for a simpler approach to Lent.

Our newest find is related to the only surviving frontal for the high altar. Thanks to Kenn Allen's weekly 'history notes', we learned this is part of a set of hangings dedicated in 1951 in memory of Mrs. Mulloy, a former AG president. A memorial gift of \$1000 was to be used for new white hangings but they were repaired so the court allowed the Guild to use the gift for a new green set (Pentecost). While we no longer use most of this set (with the installation of the center altar), a photo of it with the Trusheim sisters and this new information will soon hang in the sacristy.

The Guild held its annual luncheon and meeting in June. New members are welcome and train by following current members until comfortable to work alone.

Acolytes *Doris Burton, Coordinator* We now have an active corps of 13 members for both morning services. Five new acolytes were formally installed on March 5. An additional responsibility for them was added by Deacon Thom Sinclair at a training session in January. For Lent, acolytes wore wood crosses and only the Meade-Mahany processional cross (wood) was used. We are in the process of having the brass Ethiopian processional cross converted into a new center/hanging cross. This cross was seldom used by acolytes as it is extremely heavy. We look forward to this liturgical addition.

New volunteers age 8 and above are welcome to contact the coordinator as the next training will be in the spring.

Chalice Bearers: Wine has been offered since Lent I but there has been no plan to add parishioners as we have a seminarian, a deacon, and a deacon in training who serve. Vergers step in when additional assistance is needed.

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).

Livestream operation *David Deutsch (reporter)* continues its smooth operation, providing a wide variety of opportunities for those people off-site to see the 10 am sermon and the 11:15 service, as well as funerals and town hall meetings. The National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence was the highlight of

2023 as it was the year before.

We continue to recruit and train new video directors. We were sorry to lose Elizabeth Godec from the team but thrilled that she is off to college. Charlie Rupp, David Deutsch, Elin Whitney-Smith, Chris Berendes, and Matt Dodge have been joined by Victor Creef-Meza, who has completed his training. Justine Kalas Reeves has recently started training with Matt, and we expect her to be a full member of the team later this year. Chris has also started some training with Matt on the tech director role.

We livestreamed nine memorial services in 2023 and find that this is often very meaningful for friends and loved ones unable to attend in person.

Centering Prayer *Rev. Patricia Catalano (see Adjunct Clergy report)*

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

Liturgical Services								
Year	Sunday	Weekday	Private Eucharist	Marriages	Burials	Baptisms ¹	Morning Prayer ²	Com-pline ²
2009	104	21	16	4	2			
2010	1443	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 ⁴	92	3	33	2	3	3	1600 ⁵	300 ⁵
2021	121 ⁶	26	3	3	5	8	156 ⁵	60 ⁵
2022 ⁷	148	40	0	0	11	5	382 ⁸	0 ⁹
2023	146	5	0	2	12	5	136	0 ⁰

¹Statistics added in 2018

²Services added during Covid pandemic shut-down;

¹Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

⁴Covid shut-down occurred March 12, 2020; number reflects in-person services prior to shut-down

⁵# of services not available; number reflects total attendance; Reflects total attendance over the course of months

⁶In person services resumed June, 2021

⁷Statistics missing from 2022 report; included in 2023

⁸Morning Prayer and Centering Prayer gatherings combined

⁹Compline was eliminated in late 2021

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Karen Falk, Keith Krueger, and Greg Niblett, *Co-Directors* 2022-23; Greg Niblett and Annabelle Swift, *Co-Directors* 2023-24

Introduction: Return. Reexamine. Reconnect. Renew. With a more normal post-COVID return to activities, our program mounted a successful roster of classes, virtually and in-person.

One big change for the second half of the year and going of the staff. Christian Ed implemented Sunday School during January through May 2023 months of this report period. Starting September 2023 and for the future, Sunday School has been and will be administered by Youth and Family Ministries. Sunday School will now be under the YFM report.

In addition to in-person offerings, many classes met by Zoom. Video/virtual meetings are proving to be a positive addition to the mix of our programming. We expect virtual technology will allow us to have a robust CE program as some classes opt for video conferencing, some for in-person, and some for hybrid (video conferencing and in-person) gatherings.

As of this time, 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 The Christian Education (CE) program is divided into the following categories of adult education offerings:

- Issues-Based Experiential Classes (Specific to year)
- Discussion classes/groups that intersect with St. Mark's life, mission and values (specific to year)
- Bible studies and religious classes (annually)
- Meditation & Centering Prayer (annually)
- Exploring the arts (specific to year)
- Pop-up classes (classes that spontaneously arise throughout the year after the publication of the CE Catalog)

Christian Education 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 that includes various types of offerings and instructional methodologies that appeal to the different interests of parish members. A key cornerstone of the program is to create community. By taking classes, exploring the deeper issues of our lives, and engaging in discussions, parishioners have the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and form life-long relationships with other parishioners.

Issues Based Experiential Classes (February 1, 2023 – March 1, 2024)

Belonging Held in May; especially designed for newcomers as they consider us for their church home but is open to all parishioners interested in building community or meeting other parishioners.

Leaders: Julie Murphy and Andrew Stafford

The Dream of God: What it Really Means to Follow Jesus: The Dream of God, written in 1991, is one of the most important books written by member Dr. Verna Dozier. It explores her challenge to follow Jesus not merely worship him, reflecting on the institutionalism bred within the church that sometimes diverts us from the true mission of Jesus.

Leaders: Lynn Kneeder, Rob Hall, and Angie Cecil.

UBASUTE: The Journey of Letting Go: This five-week class used expressive writing as a therapeutic approach to explore the journey of letting go of things, people, personal myths, and behaviors that are no longer useful to us, using the metaphor of Ubasute.

Leader: Susan Thompson

Stones: A Spiritual Journey Using Expressive Writing: This class explored going on a spiritual journey using stones as symbols to represent different aspects of our life. This class explored choosing and being chosen; your sense of how you were and are formed; facing brokenness; laying down your burden; making the common in our lives beautiful; etc.

Leader: Susan Thompson

The Meaning and Making of Community: What is it, where is it, and why do we need it? October 2022, CE led a Workshop titled “Return, Reexamine, Reconnect, Renew: An Experiential Dialogue for the St. Mark’s Community.” Those who attended last year are invited to continue our dialogue AND the invitation is extended to all parishioners who value our connectedness and want to participate in an effort to explore where we go from here.

Leaders: Rita Ossolinski; Dan Lipscomb; Bill Jordan.

Me and My Kids: Growing Together—Growing Apart: This class explored how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go.

Leaders: Julie Murphy; Aaryn Kopp; Matt Dodge

Discussion Classes/Groups that intersect with our life, mission and values

Economic Inequality Reading Group: This focused on economic inequality and its intersections with multiple aspects of lived experience in the current United States. Centered on nine books by diverse authors.

Leader: Angie Cecil

Why is Buddha/Buddhism So Cool?: This class looked into a greater understanding of Buddhism and what Christians and non-Christian can learn from this faith tradition.

Leader: Elizabeth Becker

The Pipe Organ: Everything You’ve Wanted to Know: This class looked at the pipe organ, from its history and mechanics to technological changes and current trends.

Leader: Jeff Kempskie

20s/30s Fellowship: Lightly-guided discussions about life and faith once a month following the 5pm service!

Leaders: Annabelle Swift and Jilian Green

Bible Studies and Religious Classes (annual)

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.

Leader: Rev. Michele Morgan

Wrestling with the Angel explores spirituality, faith, philosophy, and ethics; led by clergy.

Leader: Rev. Michele Morgan

Baptism Course for Parents offered twice a year to prepare parents for the sacrament of baptism.

Leader: Steve Dalzell and John Edwards

Wednesday Bible Study: Met by Zoom February ‘23 -May ‘23 and September ‘23 - February ‘24.

Leader: Peter Mosely; Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney

Meditation and Centering Prayer (annual)

Centering Prayer meets via zoom every morning at 8:00 am. These sessions provide parishioners with the opportunity to better understand and practice centering prayer – a silent and contemplative practice designed to deepen our connection to the Divine and to discuss relevant readings. 40+ members and outside guests are on the E-group listserv for this group which is well attended almost every day.

Leader: Rev. Patricia Catalano

Meditation Center: Parishioners and interested members of the community gather Monday nights to practice silent meditation, listen to a short dharma talk, and join in discussion. In 2023, the group met in a hybrid format. This year, the sangha is meeting only in person to strengthen our connections and

build community. Unique in the D.C. area, the sangha continues to be peer-led. Together we explore mindfulness, share silence, and apply Theravada Buddhism to our lives. We also welcome guest monks, authors, and musicians who share their practice with us *Leader: Michele Rivard*

Exploring the Arts at St. Mark's

Photographing Your Artwork: A 1-hour class to learn tricks used by professional art photographers for better photographs of artwork.

Leaders: Elin Whitney-Smith and Chris Berendes

Liturgical Movement and Dance Liturgical Dance to a spiritual movement. There was a morning museum visit to the American Art Museum to view *When the Spirits Moved Them, They Moved*. The museum video presentation is of dancers reimagining a 19th century Shaker spiritual gathering. Afternoon Workshop: The group co-created and learn a liturgical movement to the Shaker hymn *Tis a Gift to Be Simple* and presented it in the Jan 28 service.

Leaders: Elin Whitney-Smith and JR Randall

Icons for Today: This class “prayed” an Icon of St. Mark using egg tempera and gold leaf on a prepared board. Painting included traditional iconographer’s prayers, meals together, and social time.

Leaders: Tracy Council and Cher Stepanek

Please note: Our program offers Pop-up Classes, those that spontaneously arise through the year after the publication of the CE Catalog, and may not be included in this report.

CLASS	LEADER(S)	ATTENDANCE
Issues Based Experiential Classes		
Belonging 2023	Julie Murphy and Andrew Safford	8
Dream of God 2023	Lynn Kneedler; Rob Hall, Angie Cecil	14
UBASUTE: The Journey of Letting Go 2023	Susan Thompson	8
Stones: A Spiritual Journey Using Expressive Writing	Susan Thompson	8
The Meaning and Making of Community	Rita Ossolinski; Don Lipscomb, Bill Jordan	30
Me and My Kids: Growing Together – Growing Apart	Julie Murphy; Aaryn Kopp; Matt Dodge	12
Discussion Classes		
Economic Inequality Reading Group	Angie Cecil	25
Why is Buddhism So Cool	Elizabeth Becker	8
Pipe Organ	Jeff Kempskie	18
20s/30s	Jilian Green and Annabelle Swift	20
Bible Studies and Religious Classes		
Episcopalian 101	Rev. Michele Morgan	9
Wrestling with the Angel	Rev. Michele Morgan	0
Baptism Course for Parents (Spring and Fall)	Steve Dalzell and John Edwards	1 family
Wednesday Bible Study	Peter Mosley and Raiford Gaffney	12
Meditation and Centering Prayer		
Centering Prayer	Rev. Patricia Catalano	48
Meditation Center	Michele Rivard	18
Exploring the Arts		
Photographing Your Artwork	Elin Whitney-Smith and Chris Berendes	5
Liturgical Movement and Dance Advent 2023	Elin Whitney-Smith and JR Randall	7
Icons for Today	Tracy Council and Cher Stepanek	14
TOTAL CLASS ATTENDANCE		265

OUTREACH/SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BOARD *Julie Murphy, Chair; Susan Sedgewick, Holly Kreutter, Edna Boone, Linda Staheli, Leslie Allen, Jan Lipscomb, Steve Dalzell, Betsy Agle, Peter Hawley, Angie Cecil, Lisa Ramish, Board members; Chris Berendes (Vestry Liaison); Deacon Thom Sinclair, Affiliated Clergy/Staff.*

Note: With input from the Communications Committee, the Outreach Board voted to change its name to the Service and Social Justice Board in November of 2023 to reflect the Board's broad commitment to systemic political, economic, and social change.

Mission: ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON CAPITOL HILL IS AN OPEN COMMUNITY, WELCOMING PEOPLE WHEREVER THEY ARE ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEY. WE CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF GOD THAT EMPOWER US TO ENGAGE BOLDLY IN THE STRUGGLES OF LIFE AND CARE FOR OTHERS WITH LOVE, JUSTICE, AND COMPASSION.

Service and social justice at St. Mark's is how "we care for others with love, justice, and compassion." As the Service and Social Justice Board, we seek to lead St. Mark's in caring for vulnerable populations with love and compassion, promoting the protection of our natural world, and in striving for systemic political, economic, and social equity. With our talent, time, and treasure and through local and international partnerships, the Board is dedicated to a vision of hopeful, liberated and reconciled world.

Service and social justice is a dynamic process that has and will continue to grow and develop. To sustain this work at St. Mark's, we use the analogy of a tree: the roots take our members' assets and channel them like a tree trunk to service providers that support those in need to strengthen organizations and individuals, further nourishing and strengthening the greater community.

Vision: The 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 St. Mark's outreach arena. For more information: Check our webpages: (<https://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/>) or contact the Service and Social Justice Chair at socialjustice@stmarks.net

FUNDED PROGRAMS FROM THE ANNUAL BUDGET (TOTAL PER ENTITY IN PARENTHESES)

Food Insecurity (\$4000)

- **Salvation Army Grate Patrol** (\$2000): 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.
- **Food Justice DMV** (\$2000) – Food Justice DMV is a volunteer collective delivering food and standing in solidarity with thousands of immigrant neighbors.

Gun Violence Prevention *The National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence(\$850).* December 6th, we hosted the Newtown Action Alliance Foundation's 11th annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence. Over 400 gun violence prevention advocates and survivors of gun violence attended the vigil along with special guests Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff and the ADAMS Beat Children's Choir. For the first time, before the vigil there was an all-day special program for survivors. Our staff and volunteers worked diligently to ensure that the 150 participants were warmly welcomed, well fed, and had the support they needed as they reflected on their losses.

Incarceration Justice (\$2500) We are parishioners and friends who meet to discuss and support reform of the prison systems. In 2023, our numbers grew from forty-seven to over eighty people. Since January, our meetings have included over 130 attendees, using both online Zoom access and re-introduced in-person gatherings. More than 170 individuals have received support over the year. We write "pen pal" letters to prisoners, provide books, food donations, children's clothing and toys, school supplies, and other critical help, via donations to families of Incarcerated individuals. We provided money to seventeen inmate commissary accounts. Of note, a few of the inmates who desperately needed this help were those without family or support systems. One transgender individual was afraid to enter the dining hall and relied on food from the commissary. We provided five hundred communion elements to DC jail, made numerous contributions to Returning Citizens Assistance Network

(RCAN), and volunteered at the Books to Prisoners program.

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. We welcomed speakers and participated in efforts, including the following:

Graham McLaughlin, who was running for DC Council. He outlined work done in partnership with other business leaders, to purchase three transitional houses in River Terrace, to house men coming out of prison.

Sonya Crudup, Vocational Development Specialist, from the DC Department of Human Services Ready Center.

We joined our new member, Jeremy Sierra – in support of the Steps Towards Justice Walk-a-Thon on May 20th, to support Advancing Real Change [ARC]. Their work toward a more just and humane criminal legal system - focuses on helping people facing extreme sentences, such as the death penalty and life without parole.

We attended a presentation by Anthony Ray Hinton, sponsored by the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC) McClendon Scholar-In-Residence Program. Mr. Hinton talked about his experience as a man convicted of a crime he did not commit, life on Death Row, and the extraordinary gift of working with Bryan Stevenson. He shared vignettes from his book, The Sun Does Shine.

September: we sponsored an in-person meeting, to include stories and poetry reading with Free Minds Ambassadors

October: we screened a documentary film, “Redemption”, and welcomed Council member Charles Allen to a discussion of Public Safety (in-person and online participants)

December: we gathered again, to write to residents of the DC Jail. We sent over twenty letters and over thirty children’s drawings, in two large batches. This was an intergenerational activity offered after all three services for two Sundays.

We are thankful for support from the Service and Social Justice Board which enabled us to donate to Free Minds, the DC Jail, and RCAN, associated with NYAPC. Contact Jan Lipscomb: incarcerationjustice@stmarks.net

International Programs

Sustainable Villages Honduras (\$2000): The Outreach Committee has supported the non-profit Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH) since its launch April 2017 and dozens of individual parishioners have also been very generous. 2023 was a particularly successful year for SVH. March 2023, six people from the SVH Board, including two from St. Mark’s, paid their annual visit to Santa Barbara, Honduras. They participated in a celebration of the Honduran government declaration of the El Zapotal watershed, which supplies water to seven villages in the Chinda Municipality. SVH has supported the village water management teams preparing for this declaration and funded the watershed expert who led the effort. The SVH board team participated with Coordinator Roy Lara launching SVH work in five additional villages in the municipality of Trinidad. March 2023, no farmers in any of these villages used organic agriculture and their soil was losing fertility. No villages had health committees or effective water management boards. By the time Roy Lara visited St. Mark’s fall 2023, many farmers had adopted organic techniques and were engaged in testing seeds for resistance to drought. All villages had formed active health teams and were working with the municipal health center to vaccinate families and treat tropical illnesses. Roy Lara presented the SVH story to 51 people at St. Mark’s, in private homes, by zoom. and at ECO-city farms, a non-profit in suburban Maryland that trains farmers and supports incubator farms.

Mid-East Working Group – This group chose to phase out at the end of 2023. When MEWG began in 2009 there was a real vacuum in Washington in re: any kind of full understanding of the situation in Palestine and Israel. Through MEWG, St. Mark’s accepted the challenge of changing that in a multitude of ways – panels, movies, pilgrimages, newsletters, and hosting speakers. Over time, that vacuum

has been richly filled by several organizations with both more resources and greater outreach than St. Mark's. Recognizing that, as well as the decreased in interest at St. Mark's, the committee asked leadership to allow MEWG to dissolve itself and they agreed. Michele wrote: "It is a rare opportunity to end well in the life of a church. I so appreciate your willingness to discern and to decide." With the tragedy now unfolding in Palestine and Israel, there may well be a time when a new committee with a new vision will form.

Migrants and Refugees (\$2500)

Refugees and Humanitarian Parolees (\$2500): Thanks to the Social Justice budget and our Temporary Restricted Fund for Afghan Refugees as well as contributions from Washington Community Fellowship, we were able to help our families with rent, ESL; and computer classes, as well as purchasing a computer and needed food and clothing items. We continue to work with Christ Church+Washington Parish as well as the Diocesan Refugee and Migrant Committee.

With the help of Good Neighbors Capitol Hill, Latifa Haidari and Barkat Azizi have moved to a more affordable apartment near Congressional Cemetery. This has enabled them to keep their jobs at Eastern Market/Trader Joe's and to continue their ESL classes. With Lucy Brown's guidance, we and the Washington Community Fellowship purchased a much-needed new computer for Barkat's IT classes. Yusef Stanikzai celebrated his fifth birthday with friends at Burnt Hill Elementary kindergarten. His mother and her friends are continuing their ESL classes with Andrea Harles of CC+WP. Michael Crawford from CC+WP is tutoring the Tokhi's 8th grade son. The first family we assisted back in 2017 are still struggling to adjust to life here. Karen Getman is working with fellow Episcopalians close to where they now live to provide support as needed to resolve some of the issues. Afghan refugees continue to arrive in the DMV and we continue to discern how to help newcomers while supporting the families already settled.

St. Mark's Partnership in Good Neighbors Capitol Hill: As a founding member of Good Neighbors Capitol Hill, our Board continues to contribute funds to the work of GNCH and members of our community donate and volunteer to support this refugee ministry. The 8 member congregations and many unaffiliated volunteers and donors maintain the primary vision of GNCH by creating a welcoming home for new arrivals. The GNCH coalition of congregations (in partnership with Lutheran Social Services) collects and furnishes apartments (assigned by LSS) with new and GIK donations from neighbors and friends. As a member of the leadership team, we provide annual funding to the work of GNCH and takes full responsibility for supplying the bedding and bath linens as well as toiletries for the newly arriving families. Other congregations take responsibility for the various supplies needed. January 2024, GNCH completed their 122nd apartment with furniture, bedding and bath linens, toiletries, backpacks with school supplies and toys, as well as 1 month food provision for each refugee family (principally in Prince George's County). GNCH is committed to continue this effort of preparing well-furnished apartments for the many more refugee and asylum families who arrive in the DMV area. Donations of gently used furnishings, appliances, TV's, bed and bath linens and kitchen supplies are welcome. The web-site GoodNeighborsCapitolHill.org provides an overview and contact for donations or volunteers.

Migrants Bused to DC – Since Spring 2022, the governors of several border states began 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.

We have responded by sending volunteers to respite and welcome centers and by being the supplier of new underwear, shoes and socks for men, women, and children frequenting the free store at a partner church on Capitol Hill.

Responsive Grant Program (\$900)

In 2023, the Board set aside \$900 to give parishioners the opportunity to develop outreach initiatives. Last fall, we advertised in-house, the chance to receive a small grant to jump-start or assist a new project (not already funded by the church) to benefit the larger community outside our walls.

This year, we received one proposal (Global Co Lab Network) which the Board funded. The Co Lab was

founded in 2014 by parishioner, Linda Staheli, who volunteers as Founding Director and manages the Arlington-based non-profit based in Arlington VA. The Co Lab empowers teens locally and globally to connect, collaborate, learn, and act on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Co Lab sponsors an annual global video challenge (now in its 10th year) and 12 virtual weekly SDG hubs led by teens working with adult mentors, interns, advisors, and partner organizations. Teens globally lead and work collaboratively with other teens who share a passion for learning and taking action on significant issues of our day, focusing on climate change, mental health, hunger, gender equality, racial justice, wildlife conservation, quality education, and plastic pollution, as well as dedicated hubs that engage teens in Spanish, Turkish and Persian/Dari. The Co Lab currently has teens participating from the USA, Mexico, Colombia, Spain, India, Nigeria, Cameroon, Turkey, and more. The SDG hubs are an impactful way for teens to connect with other teens from different parts of the world while learning and growing together and making the world a better place.

A few highlights of the teens' work include:

- Racial Justice Hub presented an Implicit Bias workshop to the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Arlington Public Schools and to fellow Co Lab members.
- 2022, 20+ teens traveled to DC in July to attend the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival where they spoke on 10+ panels.
- 2023, the Co Lab took 9 teens from the US and Mexico to the United Nation's High Level Political Forum. They spent a week learning about the UN, speaking at numerous official meetings, presenting 3 side events, and finishing filming of the Co Lab's soon to be released documentary by teens and for teens. The film will debut at the Ocean Institute in California, and other showings are scheduled elsewhere in the US and abroad.
- Videos, podcasts, published books and more can be seen on the Global Co lab website, <https://www.globalcolab.net>.

A few of our adults and teens helped Linda Staheli found the Co Lab's Teens Dream video challenge, and a number of others have participated in the Co Lab's programs, served as mentors, been on the Board, and more. Linda and others are working to involve more of our teens and adults in this inspiring work.

Depending on SSJ Board funding, we hope to offer a similar grant program in 2024.

Social Services/Homelessness/Social Justice (\$16,363)

Everyone Home DC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry) (\$12,363) established in 1967, helps neighbors, especially families, who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, with achieving housing stability and maximum self-sufficiency. EH-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. In 2023, Shirley's Place provided more than 1800 individuals with nearly 6,000 meals.

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 EH-DC drives for school supplies, Thanksgiving dinners, and holiday gifts. In '23, more than 20 donors gave \$2500 to these drives, supporting 42 families. (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 EH-DC. Our parishioners made additional personal donations and supported the fundraising auction.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) (\$1,000 in 2023; \$2,500 proposed for 2024 (<https://samaritanministry.org/>) We were one of 12 Episcopal churches that founded this group in 1986. The organization helps individuals across the metro area — including many returning citizens — improve their lives by setting realistic goals in education, employment, housing, and health.

Caseworkers and trainers, together with volunteers, then assist program participants in defining and taking the “next steps” they need to achieve their goals. In 2023, SMGW served 3,338 individuals, assisting many with immediate needs while working long-term with 765 who committed to participating in its Next Step program.

Today SMGW’s Partner Council consists of 50 Episcopal churches plus the Cathedral, diocese, two Episcopal schools, and four churches of other denominations. In 2023, the Ministry served people at offices located in Anacostia, Congress Heights, Northwest DC, Arlington, and Silver Spring. (The latter office is temporarily closed till a new Spanish-speaking caseworker is hired). It also provided job readiness and IT training at two affiliated locations: the Skyland Workforce Center in Southeast and Byte Back on N. Capitol Street. In 2024, the Ministry will open an office at St. Paul’s Rock Creek to serve people in NE/NW DC and adjacent MD suburbs. In 2023, Mary Neznok and Peter Hawley served as our representatives to the Ministry’s Partner Council. In addition, 15 parishioners attended the Ministry’s “Next Step Breakfast” event at the National Press Club in March while others attended the Gala in November, donated theme baskets for its silent auction or items for the live auction, or donated children’s books and gift cards for the families of those enrolled in the Ministry’s Next Step Program.

Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) (\$4000) Core team: Kit Arrington, Edna Boone, Josie Jordan We maintained our active WIN member role through financial membership and by parishioner participation in WIN actions and initiatives. 68 parishioners are now members. WIN’s major areas of impact in 2023 and our engagement include:

- **Affordable & Public Housing:** Organized and hosted a WIN film and discussion with the creators of the film *Barry Farms*, attended by **133 in-person and online**, a local story that illustrates the injustice and community disruption of displacement. Through relationship with the residents of the Potomac Gardens Senior Housing public housing building, we supported their self-advocacy with DCHA addressing over-due maintenance and organizing with other public housing advocacy organizations for resident rights awareness during renovations, resulting in a model MOU submitted to DCHA in October. We participated with WIN Ward 3 to demand developers and the city provide affordable housing developments at the Chevy Chase Library and other locations in NW.
- **Climate:** Supported the Healthy Home Act, i.e. legislation to help 30,000 low-income residents improve energy efficiency and make their homes safer. Through WIN’s Climate-in-the-pulpit we offered issue education with our households participating in data gathering in-home (and in our kitchen with families and interested parties) emissions tests, also providing a community organizing learning opportunity for Seminarian Joel Martinez. We organized and sent **~40 parishioner postcards** in support of the Act.
- **Public Safety:** Inaugurated WIN’s comments on the city’s budget with Councilmember Actions bringing together **~100 folk (26 from St. Mark’s!) with Ward 6 Councilmember, Charles Allen**, obtaining commitments for his support of WIN’s Black Equity Through Homeownership (BETH) initiatives, DCHA accountability for safe and secure Public Housing, implementation of Climate change actions, and also providing WIN’s support for his Criminal Justice Reform Bill including WIN members in the audience during the Congressional hearing.

We participated as event organizers, volunteers on actions and ongoing initiatives, door knocking/ listening sessions, educational opportunities offered, and attendance at Councilmember events for Wards 3, 6, 7, culminating in over 200 people gathering in Metropolitan AME for a Public Safety Action with Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto, chair of the Judiciary Committee (10 from St. Mark’s.) We hope to continue seeking opportunities for overlap and partnership with related efforts at St. Mark’s (e.g., WIN promotion of the Incarceration Justice movie showing, “Redemption”, and promotion and participation in the book group on Economic Inequality.)

Sampling of WIN In the News:

Black Homeownership Declines in D.C. Due to High Student Debt, Says New Report (10/30/23)
Influencing Education & Policy to embrace Prevention and Intervention along with law enforcement and incarceration: Brook Pinto Action - Homicides Are Up 9% In D.C. So Far This Year (5/10/2023 DCist)

Advocating Climate Change Action: Hundreds Of Natural Gas Leaks In D.C. Contribute To Climate Change (10/4/23)

[https://dcist.com/story/22/02/23/natural-gas-leaks-dc-climate-change/\(02/22/23\)](https://dcist.com/story/22/02/23/natural-gas-leaks-dc-climate-change/(02/22/23))

(BETH) DC Faith Leaders Push for More Affordable Housing, Black Homeownership Programs: 4/11/23 (NBC 2:30mins)

WIN 2023 4:30 min summary

Youth Development

Bishop Walker School (BWS) (\$4000): 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. Among BWS' highlights for 2023 was the installation of Dr. Angelina Arrington as new head of school on October 13. See <https://www.bishopwalkerschool.org/> for more information about BWS.

Vision 2020 Excess Capital Funds In addition to distributing the funds from the operating budget, in 2021-2, the Vestry charged the Board with disbursing \$15,692.76 in monies leftover from the capital campaign to worthy charitable organizations and initiatives. The Board voted to fund the following ongoing work:

Navajoland - February 22, 2022, the Vestry designated a proposed partnership between St. Mark's and St. Christopher Missions Church, Navajoland, as a recipient of surplus funding from the Extended Vision 2020 campaign.

In its second year, this initiative focused on organizing its first youth trip, with five high-schoolers visiting Navajoland for a week in July, under the supervision of Youth and Family Minister Caleb Nelson Amaker, Kit Arrington, Charlie Rupp, and Mary Neznok. The focus of the week's activities was an exploration of significant historical, cultural and geographic elements of the local region. It also included a series of conversations with local residents and others about Navajo history and culture and the environmental, economic, and social challenges facing their communities, as well as the sources of resiliency and hope for the future. After, the pilgrims reported to the congregation in a standing-room-only pub lunch presentation.

The Navajoland Initiative Steering Group is now developing plans for a '24 visit by Navajo youth to DC and a second online book group connecting parishioners from St. Mark's and St. Christopher's. For more information about this program and our partner, visit <https://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/> and ecofnavajoland.org.

Refugee Steering Committee – see above

ARTS COUNCIL *Elin Whitney-Smith, J.R. Randall, co-conveners*
(note: see Christian Ed report for additional arts classes)

As a result of the new art 'hanging' system installed in the nave, a gift from the estate of Kitty Donnelly, art shows now have space and security. The council hosted three major exhibitions in 2023:

Christmas and Epiphany December 2022 through January 2023

<https://watercolordc.com/christmas2022/>

Ordinary Time Pentecost 2023

<https://watercolordc.com/ordinarytime2023/>

Birth of Simple Light

Advent 2023 through Epiphany 2024

Art to Change the World – Currently hanging as our Lent show

Classes included:

- **Stained Glass II (zoom):** Mary Cooper focused on the windows in the clerestory. The windows on the main level were in the 2022 Stained Glass (zoom) <https://www.stmarks.net/stainedglass2023/>
- **How to Photograph your Art:** secrets of the professionals. We met in the Adams room and photographed artwork using scanning software and doing minor edits.
- **Imagining Justice *Beyond the Frame: Angie Cecil.*** The group visited 'Sargent in Spain' at the National Gallery of Art. Participants considered the decades of observations of place, other, and self through the American painter's copies, sketches, and finished works. Together, the group cultivated contemplative looking, story-telling, and listening skills. Followed by a discussion on Zoom.
- **Raven and the Box of Daylight *Beyond the Frame: Martha Connor-Donnelly*** The exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian featured works from internationally acclaimed artist Preston Singletary (Tlingit American, b. 1963), and tells the story of Raven, the creator of the world and giver of the stars, moon, and sun.
- **Liturgical Movement *Beyond the Frame: American Art Museum Exhibit: Musical Thinking: New Video Art and Sonic Strategies*** (Mariam Ghani and Erin Ellen Kelly), *When the Spirits Moved Them, They Moved*, reimagining the nineteenth-century spiritual gatherings that took place in a preserved Shaker meetinghouse. We returned to the Adams Room and learned and co-constructed movements to the Shaker hymn *It's a Gift to be Simple*. The movements were part of the liturgy the following week.
- **Dance Studio** Dorothy 'Dot' Walker is the new artistic director and Rosie Brooks has become the *director emerita*. The board has reformed and meets regularly
- **St. Mark's Players:** The Players are marking their 40th anniversary in 2024. In conjunction with the Archives and Parish History Committee, will be mounting an exhibit in Baxter Hall this spring.

PARISH LIFE *Convener position open; Job description: Convener is point of contact between activity leaders and the Vestry. Represents the groups at budget time and is go-between for issues that may arise. See the Senior Warden if you are interested in this position. Note: Since the Covid shut-down, several groups have closed (3rd Agers, Film Club. Parish Retreat (returning in '24), and book group). Creation of new groups are welcome.*

College of Crustaceans *Doris Burton, reporting;* The College seems to be hanging on despite the retirement of several members. Nevertheless, we held our annual feast, crabs and corn (and pizza??). While our nominations were their usual spectacular selves, our 2024 COTY was absent...how dare she choose working for Hilary Clinton over us?? We finally cornered and crowned Amanda MacDonald on picnic Sunday.

Dozier Library *Peter Hawley, coordinator* Following the untimely death of Linell Grundman, Senior Warden (January 13), her family donated adult and children's books from her collection to the library. The Committee selected approximately 150 titles and had a special bookplate printed indicating they were given in her memory. On April 30, books not selected were offered to parishioners with the remainder made available at a Memorial Garden Party May 21. June 18, all the books selected for children and young adults were displayed in Baxter Hall to be checked out. An insert in each book invited young readers to send the Grundman family a thank-you note. To see all the books donated by the family/Linell herself in past years, visit the online catalog at www.librarycat.org/lib/stmarksdozierlibrary and enter Grundman in the search field. In the fall of 2023, seven additional books, mostly addressing social justice issues, were purchased for the adult and children's collections.

Film Club *Alicia Ruble* After nearly 20 years of fun and fellowship, the St. Mark's Film Club has disbanded. Thanks to our intrepid hosts, John and Nancy Yanish, and to everyone who made the Film Club a success for so long.

Lambda Lions *Keith Krueger* We are in a period of reorganization and seeking new leadership. To fur-

ther that goal, there was a fun potluck social gathering in April 2023 at the home of Keith Krueger and Joel Lawson. We are appreciative of the history and journey of our community around LGBTQ+ at St. Mark's which you can read at <https://www.stmarks.net/lgbtq-and-st-marks-history/>. Special thanks to Randy Mark's et al for their article about our journey for the Washington *Blade* <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2023/04/12/opinion-st-marks-episcopal/>. If you are interested in being added to the Lambda Lions email group, please email keithkrueger@hotmail.com. And, even more important, if you would like to play a leadership role in our future, please contact Rev. Morgan.

Widow/Widower's Group *Mary Cooper* meets monthly, 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, depending on the needs of the attendees.

Sunday Lunch (formerly Pub lunch) *Pam Lacey* To promote opportunities for fellowship and welcoming newcomers, we hope to offer lunch after the 11:15 am service, one Sunday per month. Pam Lacey volunteered to be Coordinator and to recruit volunteers and give them the instructions they need. Pam met with Doris Burton (former JW) and Maureen Shea to review kitchen equipment and to go over new procedures. We hope the new stove will encourage more to offer lunch. Unlike pre-Covid pub lunch, the Vestry decided to not sell tickets or charge for the meal. Instead, lunch will be free and the cooks will be asked to cover the cost themselves as a gift to the community. The vestry agreed that there could be a free-will basket for those who want to donate to help defray the cooks' costs. Groups or individuals willing to provide lunch should contact Pam Lacey, placey914@gmail.com or 202-809-6565

Women to Women *Edna Boone* W2W co-hosted a garden tea party in memory of Linell Grundman, our late Senior Warden, with many women and men in attendance. Additionally, the group held a 'walk and talk' at in June.

Women's Investment Network *Penny Farley, Jackie Boddie, contacts* WIN is a group of women interested in plumbing the arcanities of the stock market and corporate balance sheets to invest and build our own WIN nest egg. WIN is self-financing; we study hard and have fun as we continue to swerve and bounce with the market. We welcome new members.

Archives & Parish History *Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Mary Cooper, Bridey Heing*

2023 was a year of significant work and accomplishment for the team. We are deeply grateful to the board of directors of the Endowment for their ongoing support, most recently through the \$15,000 grant that supported our work in '22 and '23 including preservation and digitization of a number of our most important parish records. Without that support, our work would not have been possible. In 2023, we:

- Arranged for the restoration and digitizing of parish records dating from 1893 to the 1970s – baptisms, confirmations, deaths and records of Sunday services.
- Researched, designed, produced and installed an exhibit on the Rectors since our founding, including biographical information and photos. To be permanently hung in the Rectors Room.
- Researched, designed, produced and installed a major exhibit on the life and work of our 9th Rector, The Rev. William Baxter, rightly credited with saving St. Mark's from likely closure and destruction in the 1950s and 1960s. He introduced Functional Christian Education, integrated the church, developed Chancel Drama, encouraged creation of the Dance Studio and led the congregation into greater engagement with the challenges of the neighborhood. The exhibit recognized the centenary of his birth, October 5, 1924 and included a panel discussion of parishioners who here during the Baxter years.
- Published in the weekly Gospel, "This Sunday at St. Mark's" articles drawing on our collection of church bulletins that date back to the late 1940s.
- Made significant progress on the ongoing organization of the Archives including support for the work of Karen Falk and Louise Walsh on the Christian Education archives and initial steps in indexing the records of the Endowment. We began a trial run of digitizing Vestry minutes.

Lichfield Link While our friendship link with this English Cathedral was not very active for a number of years, Doris Burton, our link rep, continued a correspondence with Pat & Brian Empsall of Lichfield. With the news that the choir will be going to England in 2025, Doris traveled to the UK in November to renew the relationship, met the Interim Dean, saw a number of friends from past visits, and experienced Remembrance Day, so different from the US and exceptionally moving. In January, she presented a Mission Moment to educated new parishioners about the history of the link. Then, in March, a friend of the choir from the '96 visit, The Very Rev. Charles Taylor, former Canon Precentor, died after a long illness.

Hospitality *Maureen Shea and Kenn Allen;* Coffee hour/accompanying snacks continue to provide an important time for community building, particularly after Sermon Seminar. Often there are youth and Social Service and Justice projects simultaneously in Baxter Hall. They may increase consumption of food and drink but add a good sense of the ways people are engaged at St. Mark's. Attendance, however, is small after the 11:15 service. Budgeted funds purchase coffee and snacks, and there are donations of snacks from the Sunday school teachers. Challenges remain recruiting people to serve and clean up, especially after the 11:15. *Contact Maureen or Kenn to volunteer*

Saints and Sinners Harvest Celebration *Janet & Don Lipscomb, Karen Woodall, Jim Brooks, Jason Wallis, Bridey Heing, Kit Arrington, Karen Weidemann, Shay Waye, Leslie Allen, Doug Ammon, Lisa Ramish.* We used the nave and Baxter Hall as opposed to 2022 when we had to make back-up plans because of Covid. We welcomed eighty adults and twenty-eight children and another dozen or so walk-ins. Acrobat, Ashley Rivera danced with multiple lighted hula hoops. We had face-painting, photo opportunities amongst balloons and the Barbie box, coloring a mural, plus additional children's activities hosted by Deborah Cunningham and her team and our Deacon Intern, Annemarie Quigley. Each child was given a personalized photo after the costume parade. Shay Waye was a shopper extraordinaire, and managed most of the catering while others brought food and beverages to share. Karen Weideman made numerous trays of "scary looking" and tasty Halloween cookies! We danced and enjoyed being together with revelers of all ages!





STAFF REPORTS

The crozier of the 6thC pope who sent Augustine to England to begin the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons

Rector *The Rev. Michele Morgan*

Let me start with what I put in the overview promotional report for guests:

Numbers: An important statistic for all churches is tracking weekly attendance and how it shifts over time. Here is where we stand for 2023 compared to past years, through the last Sunday of the year: **12/31 /23. We have had a total in-person attendance for our three services of 10,551.** To understand the impact of COVID-19 on the parish, between 2007 and 2019 our annual attendance was 14,916. In 2019, it was 14,753. As you see, we are down about 5000 per year.

One example of growth: Support for our music program has brought additional vitality to St. Mark's. By supporting the music director, our choir is growing -- with 20-30 year olds! Funds for a tenor section leader enabled the choir to sing more challenging pieces and support one another. Jeff put money into challenging and beautiful musical works. We made space in our calendar for concert performances generating revenue and bringing in more people some of whom have joined the church and the music program. The music fits within their interest and in such a transient community as DC, allows them to make connections based on mutual interests. Through that connection, the choir has become a community with members showing up for one another and serving as a model for other groups in our congregation.

Continuing to invite people For the past eight years, we have offered a class called 'Belongings'. I want to start moving people along, not just give them an idea of *belonging* but also to give them a chance to *believe* and to answer the question of how that might help us *behave*. Our goal this year is to use our already existing *Belongings* class to create more access to teaching about *believing* using our worship planning and how we worship along with other adult classes. The last side of this triangle is how we *behave*, using the lens of social justice, service projects, sermon seminars, and the ways that that move us towards discipleship, forgiveness, and the desire to invite more good things into our lives. We will continue to look for reinvigorated ways to live into the 'why' of our fellowship, discipleship, and service. The ultimate goal is to invite people not just because we are a great place to come, worship, and have fellowship, but because our goal is to live into belonging, believing, and behaving.

Now to the nitty and the gritty:

- **Annual Meeting 2023** the following four by-law amendments were proposed and adopted:
 1. The annual meeting can be held between January 1- March 31
 2. Allow virtual or hybrid parish meetings.
 3. Changes the title "register" to "clerk" (for greater transparency and consistency with Episcopal Church/diocesan terminology).
 4. By-Laws can be amended at special parish meetings
- **Stewardship in 2023** In 2023 our goal for pledges from our congregation was \$863,000.00. We ended the year with \$886,343.03, \$23,343.03 over our low-end goal.
- **Personnel** I continue to be grateful for Michael Gravlee, Annick Milde, Caleb Nelson Amaker and Jeff Kempskie.
- Deacon Thom Sinclair is overseeing Annemarie Quigley who will be finishing her deaconate internship June 2nd.
- The Personnel Committee is now functioning and working with me to complete reviews to help the staff know what they are doing well and where they can improve.

Seminarians

Our own **Caitlin Frazier** was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate

Chris Leung was to join us but her bishop felt St. Mark's was not a good fit.

Lydia Arnts transferred from Colgate Divinity in Rochester, NY, to Virginia Theological Seminary. Her Bishop decided we are a great fit, that Lydia is learning a lot, and gave permission for her to remain for a second year.

PILLAR CHAIRS

Worship	OPEN
Pastoral Care	Patricia Catalano
Christian Education	Greg Nesbitt, Annabelle Swift
Arts	Elin Whitney-Smith and JR Randall
Service and Social Justice	Edna Boone and Holly Kreutter
Parish Life	OPEN

Worship We continue to seek a worship chair and are grateful to Doris Burton for continuing to step in. Ash Wednesday was February 14 and the clergy came through with an Ash Wednesday extravaganza. We held the traditional 7 am, 12pm, and 7 pm services as well as being at Capitol South Metro with Ashes-To-Go during the morning rush (8 am to 9:30) and the evening rush (4:30 to 6:30 pm). About 150 people attended the services at St. Mark's and we distributed ashes to 200+ people at the Metro. We are now busy preparing for Holy Week. We moved "Following after Jesus" to the start of the week. It is not my favorite thing to do yet we are trying to deal with the realities of the local school systems spring break. The goal is to do it on Holy Saturday, having the CHILDREN 'find Jesus' for the first Eucharist of Easter, their delight in having the alleluias back, and recapping Holy Week rather than forecasting it.

Pilot project for worship planning: What worked: the ownership and enthusiasm the various teams had about each service, new prayers and contexts, inviting others to attend church (in general), groups didn't add things to try to connect materials. There was a clear focus for most themes, involvement of different (and some new) people in liturgy planning, using gray boxes in the bulletins as descriptors, creative hymn singing (having a soloist walking to the center to invite others to join), careful consideration to selecting hymns that reflect the desired theme, and creating more opportunities for contemplation or meditation. Advent 2023 invited people in, was well organized, and I am grateful to all those who worked on the project.

Pastoral Care I want to thank Patricia Catalano for her work caring for people who are shut-in and unable to be physically present at church. Between the two of us, we keep a close eye on 15 people. Deaths this year: 14 longtime members died this past year. Folks we saw regularly: Jan Hoffman, Linell Grundman (Senior Warden), Bertha Martin (Altar Guild Chair Emerita), Margaret Wood, Fairfield Butt, and those who moved away or whose health considerations kept them away; John Lineberger, Wes Foster, Mary Welker, Dail Doucette, Joan Perotti, Nancy St. Germaine, Paul Mahaney, Beryl Lilliston Maloney, and William Flanders. It has been a difficult year and I hope that everyone is on this list and the memory of them will continue to be a blessing.

Christian Education continues under the leadership of Greg and Annabelle. I continue to be grateful to them both.

Service and Social Justice Edna Boone and Holly Kreutter have agreed to become co-chairs in the new year.

Arts Elin and JR continue to bring art to the forefront and it is exciting.

Parish Life Unfortunately, Karen Woodall decided to step down from the Chair position. We are looking for someone to take over. I am grateful to Karen for her time and energy

BIG AND SMALL CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE

- Sunday School oversight moves from Christian Education leaders to the Director of Youth and Family Ministries
- The vestry is attempting to use our time well by having a 'consent agenda' to move through the material. Reports are expected to be submitted a week earlier and read ahead of meetings

Gun Violence Prevention

- *Bishops Against Gun Violence* met here for three days in May
 - June 6-12th: Vigil to ban assault weapons with Sam Schwartz
 - National Vigil Against Gun Violence, December 6: We had a learning day with them as well. It was a lot of work for the staff and we will not be doing it in 2024
- We celebrated "Wear Orange" on June 25th (the color adopted to symbolize opposition to guns.)

Satellite organizations

St. Mark's Players We had success leaving the risers up on Sundays and will continue to look for ways to benefit us both. The Players are celebrating their 40th year and looking for ways to connect with the parish. They are in contact with the Archives Committee and the Arts pillar to assist in celebrating this anniversary. They contribute \$1000.00 per show to our operating budget and the board hopes to raise that amount. I believe they are considering \$2000.00 per show or \$6000 a program cycle. We may expect between \$1000-\$2000 per show next season.

Dance Studio Dorothy 'Dot' Walker is the new artistic director and Rosie Brooks has become the *director emerita*. The board has reformed and meets regularly. I am grateful to those who have made that possible.

Music Studio Continues providing lessons and a percentage of the income goes into our operating budget.

Meditation Group meets regularly and Michelle Rivard, coordinator, does an excellent job of holding space and creating interesting programs. The group donates \$1000 to our operating budget.

Yoga Studio contributes \$600 twice a year, for a total of \$1200 this year.

Finally, thanks to Vestry members/officers Shay Waye, Randy Marks, Bill Jordan, Chris Berendes, Jeb Ory, Katherine Buchanan, Martha Huizenga, and all those who made 2023 a wonderful year of growth, community, and Joy.

Personal Note Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Earlier this year I had a tough month: my new- to-me dog, Trixie, bringer of joy, had a medical crisis and died in my arms. Michelle Dibblee, my spouse, continues her education in New York City, bouncing back and forth; then, I was asked to fill the remainder of the term for the representative of DC Southern Region on Diocesan Council (we meet the second Tuesday of the month). In January, I was elected to a three-year term on my own. I am especially grateful that my knee surgery was successful: I continue with PT and look forward to the day I can, once again, ride my bike to St. Mark's.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR *The Rev. Christopher Phillips*

Rev. Phillips accepted a call to be the rector of Redeemer+Bethesda (MD) . His last Sunday with us was February 4, 2024.

ADJUNCT/PASTORAL ASSOCIATE *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 2018. A significant part of my work now is as Pastoral Associate, a non-stipendiary position. In 2023, I served in a variety of roles, including priest, spiritual guide, and pastor.

Here are ministries in which I was involved March 2023 -January 2024:

Liturgical role:

- Preached seven times from January 2023 to January 2024 and presided/co-presided with Michele and/or Chris the Sundays I preached.
- Co-presided with Chris at morning services and preached/presided at the 5 pm service when Michele had knee surgery
- Preached at Linell Grundman's memorial service
- Concelebrated with Michele at Elizabeth Long's memorial service
- Assisted in Grace Coogan's baptism
- Led All Souls' Day Service of Remembrance (Attendance:19)
- Preached at Fairfield Butt's memorial service

Centering Prayer: This faithfully continues as a strong online ministry entering its fourth year. We still meet at 8 for reading, contemplation and fellowship. March 19, 2024 will mark four years that we've been meeting on zoom. Not everyone attends every day, but members alternate in a very organic manner. The total number of days we held centering prayer in 2023 was 273 with a total attendance of 3012, and an average attendance of 12.

We have created a prayerful community of contemplatives who engage in functional theology and deep discussions on faith and other matters. Last year we read six 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 journeys with God.

Laying on of Hands Training Offered two training sessions for LOOH ministers, the first one on October 7. Eleven people attended. Joining the group were some veterans who shared their experience with the new ministers. The second training took place on December 10 with six ministers in attendance.

Grief and Loss Group has met online every other week since June 2022. It is a ministry that helps those who have lost a loved one or are experiencing deep sorrow to go through the mourning/grieving process with others who are in a similar journey with care and compassion. Twelve people have participated since the group started.

Pastoral Care Michele, Chris and I share pastoral duties, which include visiting the sick and other parishioners who may be experiencing life challenges as well as meeting and keeping in touch with those who reach out to the clergy for counsel. The clergy keep each other informed of any and all pastoral matters that come our way. We also enlist the help of lay volunteers who feel called to visit and care for fellow parishioners in need.

Other Attended Diocesan Convention in January 2023

Deacon *The Rev. Thom Sinclair*

2023 was my first full calendar year at St. Mark's and marked 1 ½ years of being with you. Thanks be to God! I am so blessed to be assigned to such a dynamic, loving, and thoughtful community.

My role as your deacon has been focused on empowering the laity and participating in the liturgy. My goal is to emphasize the role of baptized members of the church in fulfilling their baptismal covenant.

As part of this, I've worked throughout the year with the newly re-named Service and Social Justice Board, including co-leading two retreats with former Chair, Julie Murphy. I have tried to work with them to raise up new leaders, involving them in ministry, introducing new ways of looking at our work wholistically, and working closely with those deeply involved and committed to this work.

My role in the liturgy reflects this service orientation as I fulfill my diaconal role in proclaiming the Gospel, inviting the confession, serving at the Lord's Table by preparing and placing on it the offerings of bread and wine, assisting in the ministration of the sacrament, and dismissing the congregation.

Empowering the laity in the Gospel procession has been something I've been very happy to introduce this year. We've brought the Gospel out of the pulpit and to the people. And we have now involved the laity- the acolytes- in the Gospel procession.

Deacons in most dioceses and parishes preach occasionally, but I have been fortunate to be in a parish that has allowed me to preach 7 times in this past year. That is truly amazing given the caliber of preaching that is both expected and found at St. Mark's.

This has been a wonderful year, and I can't neglect to mention the highlight of 2023- having Annemarie Quigley as our deacon intern. St. Mark's has been blessed to have her, and it has been a joy for me to be able to mentor her in her parish internship work.

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC *Jeff Kempskie*

Chancel Choir The choir continues to rebuild and gain momentum after a long post-pandemic recovery. The group sang for the late Senior Warden Linell Grundman's memorial service mid-February, led an evensong service with special music later that month, for former choir member Mary Welker's funeral in mid-March, two movements from Monteverdi's *Messa a 4 voci da Cappella* for Laetare Sunday (Lent 4), and prepared music for Holy Week and Easter when we were again joined by a brass quartet. The choir concluded the season with an Evensong service at the beginning of June.

Soloists and the occasional summer choir provided musical leadership June-August. In late August we said goodbye to soprano Logan Clark who moved to Cardiff, Wales, to pursue a Master's in Vocal Music Performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Logan made significant contributions to the music program for a number of years.

The choir began the fall season in late August and a retreat in mid-September. They led the music for a special service featuring the *Missa Gaia* (Earth Mass) with guest instrumentalists and projected images in October. The group was delighted to sing for the wedding ceremony of choir members Kristina Keenan and Luke Giannini in early November and finished the year with Advent Lessons & Carols in early December and a festive Christmas Eve service with brass. They sang for former choir member Fairfield Butt's memorial service in January and an evensong in late February. Overall, the last year has been a successful one.

Children's Choir Judith Rautenberg continues her third season as director. After a strong finish in the spring, the choir came back for a fun-filled retreat in late August. In the fall, we had enough children (about 25) to divide them into two groups for rehearsals: the youngest, 5 to 8 year-olds, rehearse Sundays from about 11:00-11:30 and the older 9-11 year-olds from 11:30 to 12:10. Despite inconsistent attendance at times, the choir has grown and made good progress. We are continuing to come up with more ways of building community and cohesion among both the children and parents.

Handbell Choir This ensemble continued its bi-monthly Wednesday rehearsals under the direction of Katherine Anderson. Sarah Headley, who co-led the group for a number of years, recently had to step down. The ensemble is currently learning new music and continually working on developing its ringing and music-reading skills while having fun in the process.

Instruments & Equipment The 1959 Holtkamp organ has, with just a few small exceptions, continued to remain in good working order. Cleaning, re-leathering, and some modifications to the swell box are currently being considered. The Yamaha grand piano remains in satisfactory condition. The Steinway C piano technically owned by the Chiarina Chamber Players has settled in and is in excellent condition. The Baxter Hall piano is tuned bi-annually and remains in fair condition. The Kohler & Campbell grand piano in the music studio - a donation from 2015 - remains in good condition. We are trying to sell it, however, with the intention of replacing it with the Yamaha grand from the nave while we have access to the Steinway C piano. 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 voice lessons continued with Diane Atherton teaching in the Elders Room one evening per week and Anh Ngyuen and Sasha Beresovsky teaching several more piano students in the Cox Music studio. In addition, Saeha Youn began teaching piano one day per week. Judith Rautenberg started teaching individual voice lessons as well as music classes for young children.

Other Music-Related Happenings We furthered our role as an important performance venue for music ensembles in the DC area. When the Library of Congress' Coolidge Auditorium suffered water damage from a pipe break last winter, their staff promptly contacted us to see if we could hold several of their previously-scheduled concerts. We were honored to host a total of seven different concerts by some of the world's top classical music ensembles including Klangforum Wien, Bach Collegium Japan, Ars Nova Copenhagen, pianist Sir Stephen Hough, the Harlem Quartet, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the

Signum Quartet. These concerts brought hundreds of new faces through our doors while also generating a substantial amount of revenue. Several other highly-respected groups again performed in the nave this year: The 21st Century Consort, Folger Consort, Washington Bach Consort, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Chiarina Chamber Players, Armonia Nova, and The Thirteen. Groups new to us included Musicivic Baroque, Matchstick Percussion Ensemble, and the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra. Other events included the annual "Carols & Cheer" sing-along in December and January "Sandbox" concerts for young children organized by children's choir director Judith Rautenberg.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES *Caleb Nelson Amaker, Director; Kit Arrington, Mary Miller, Terri Nostrand, Denise Oliveira, Leadership Team; Meg Platt Vestry liaison.*

February '23 began the transition of Sunday school moving from the Christian Ed pillar. This was decided by the CE co-directors, Stephanie Deutsch (coordinator for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd), Sunday school teachers, and Rev. Morgan.

Confirmation: YFM also resumed its biannual class: six youths participated in ten sessions from February-April. The class was taught by the YFM Director with help from Rev. Morgan and Rev. Christopher Phillips. Upon completion of the class, all six chose to be confirmed during Bishop Mariann Budde's parish visit in April.

Youth Service Trip: Kit Arrington and Steve Dalzell from the Navajoland Steering Group, chose St. Christopher's in Bluff, UT as this year's destination. In July, five students traveled to the mission there. We worked with the Mission, an Episcopal church hub, and met with members of the community, cleaned the mission cemetery, organized food donations for distribution, visited local museums, and met several members of Navajo to learn about their life experiences. Everyone also participated in the worship, "Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples," led by Friends Peace Teams, to begin learning about the cultural experience of Native people in the United States.

"Art in the Garden" in August, included a Navajoland trip celebration. A luncheon was given for the participants who shared stories and pictures with a room full of parishioners.

Kit Arrington organized the trip with Charlie Rupp and Mary Nezek of the Steering Group as chaperones.

Parents Night Out: Our two semiannual events were held in March (20 attendees) and November (17 attendees).

Legos Project: We held our first "Lego Stations of the Cross" event in which each participant created a Lego representation of one of the stations. Led by Loretta Veney and Terri Nostrand over two weeks, the finished stations were displayed for three weeks in the chapel, beginning Palm Sunday.

April: "Walking After Jesus," our dramatic retelling of Holy Week for children was held with six families and several adults. Easter Sunday we had two Easter Egg hunts: 450 eggs were hidden, 400 donated by the congregation.

May: We began planning for fall by recruiting new leadership team members. The team planned summer events: 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. The first was in June. We also held a parent's meeting to grow excitement for the coming program year.

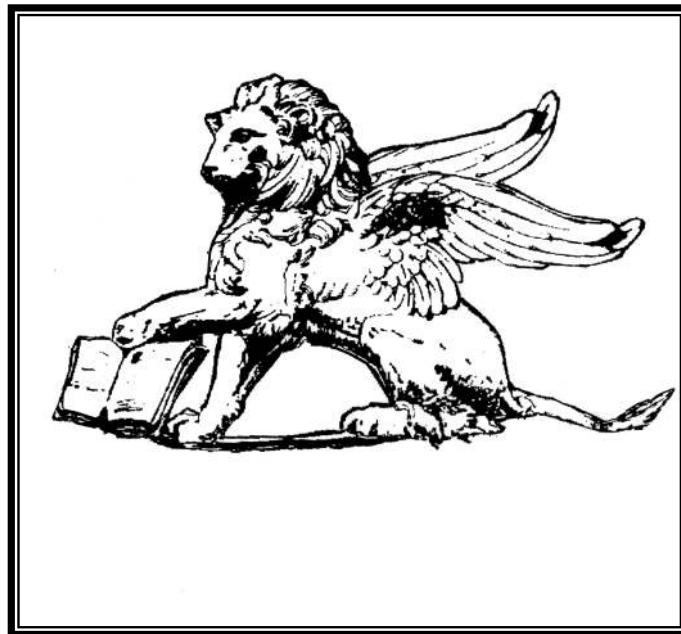
September: Our kickoff was the parish barbecue. Final programming duties for Sunday school began with a blessing of Sunday school teachers on the first day of classes. In addition to the three Catechesis classes, youth classes were separated into middle and high school classes, with their own curricula. 31 students were registered for Sunday school and three middle/high school events were added to the calendar.

Advent/Christmas: Advent wreath decorating was held in late November. The pageant, on Christmas Eve, included about 20 families and focused on roles allowing the congregation to participate in the narration. Meg Platt, Laura Gladstone and Holly Burkhalter organized costume distribution and rehearsal.

Ski Trip: This returned for the first time since the Covid lockdown. 31 children and adults participated in a weekend of skiing and fun in Davis, WV, that included art activities, a pizza party, and a community dinner with parishioners Nora Howell and Karen Wiedemann who live/vacation in that area.

Throughout the year, YFM continued to increase 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 six episodes weekly to families. We continue to connect with families offline by mailing invitations to big events and sending our students birthday cards.

Thank you to all who volunteered with our events this year. We are looking forward to the next!



This version of the symbol of St. Mark was designed by the late John Lineberger.

It was our 'standard' lion for many years.

This version appears on the signs on A and 3rd St.

ST. MARK'S COLUMBARIUM

In the

CHAPEL OF THE NAZARENE

Established 2007

Niches available to parishioner and their families: \$1500

To select and purchase contact Penny Hansen

pennyhansn@aol.com



LEGACY LIONS 2023

Kenn Allen, coordinator

We launched the Legacy Lions in 2017 as our planned giving program to recognize those parishioners who have made commitments to St Mark's in their estate planning. Since 2015, we have received 16 legacy gifts totaling \$1,683, 908. These gifts have enabled us to replace the Lexan covering on the nave windows with tempered glass, develop the 3rd street garden, formerly known as the "3rd Street Parking," and install permanent backing on the cherry tree panels in Baxter Hall as well as to retire our indebtedness from the major Vision 2020 and Extended Vision renovations.

Just over \$90,000 in Legacy gifts were received in 2023 from Jim Steed, Mary Welker, John Barton and Don Mosher. We are very grateful to those who have indicated that they have made advance plans for legacy gifts to the parish.

Current as of 2/12/24

If you are interested in becoming a Legacy Lion or in learning more about planned giving, please contact Kenn Allen at 202-365-7512.

Scilla Adams

Kenn Allen & Maureen Shea

Betsy Athey & Frank Lloyd*

Bart Barnes

Eileen Blumenthal

Janice Brown*

Mary Anderson Cooper

Joya Cox*

Stephanie & David Deutsch

Kitty Nicholson Donnelly* & Harrison Donnelly

Linda & Bob Ewald

Karen Falk

Betty & Wes* Foster

Raiford Gaffney

Rob Hall

Penny & Brock* Hansen

Rosemary Harold & Michael Knipe

Tucker* & Jack* Harris

Nadine Hathaway

Peter Hawley

Jo Ellen Hayden & George Meng

Anne & Robert Headley

Jan Hoffman*

Nora Howell

Linda Huntington

Gale & Wayne Johnson

Josie & Bill Jordan

Keith Krueger

Patricia Latin

Elizabeth Long*

Beryl Maloney Lillaston*

Randall David Marks

Bertha Martin*

Marilyn & Jim* Meek

Winnie* & Don* Mosher

Doris Muller-Burton & Jack Burton*

Rita & Matt Ossolinski

David Perry

Kathryn Powers

David Shaw

Marilu Sherer

Linda Staheli & David Abramowitz

James A. Steed*

Joseph Tarantolo

Lil & Arnold* Taylor

Sherrill Taylor

Carol Thornhill

Susan Thompson

Louise Walsh & Charlie Rupp

Mary Welker*

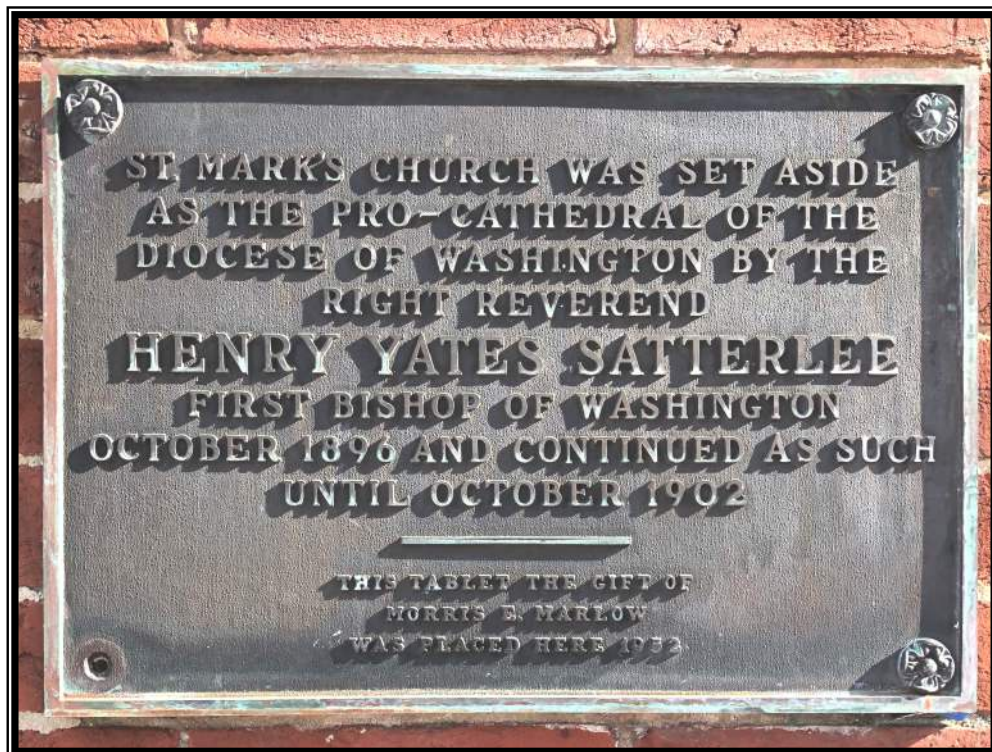
Marjorie & David Wellman

Nat White

Gretchen & David Willson

FROM THE PARISH ARCHIVES:

A 1901 Photo of Capitol Hill taken from the Library of Congress roof
with the tower of St. Mark's visible in the right quarter
(from a glass negative)



The historic plaque on the tower

*One of the nave window roundels before and after restoration
2016 Legacy Gift from Mary Anderson Cooper in memory of Bert Cooper*



*The high altar frontal, Christmas 2020
Photo courtesy of David Deutsch
See Altar Guild Report/Worship*

