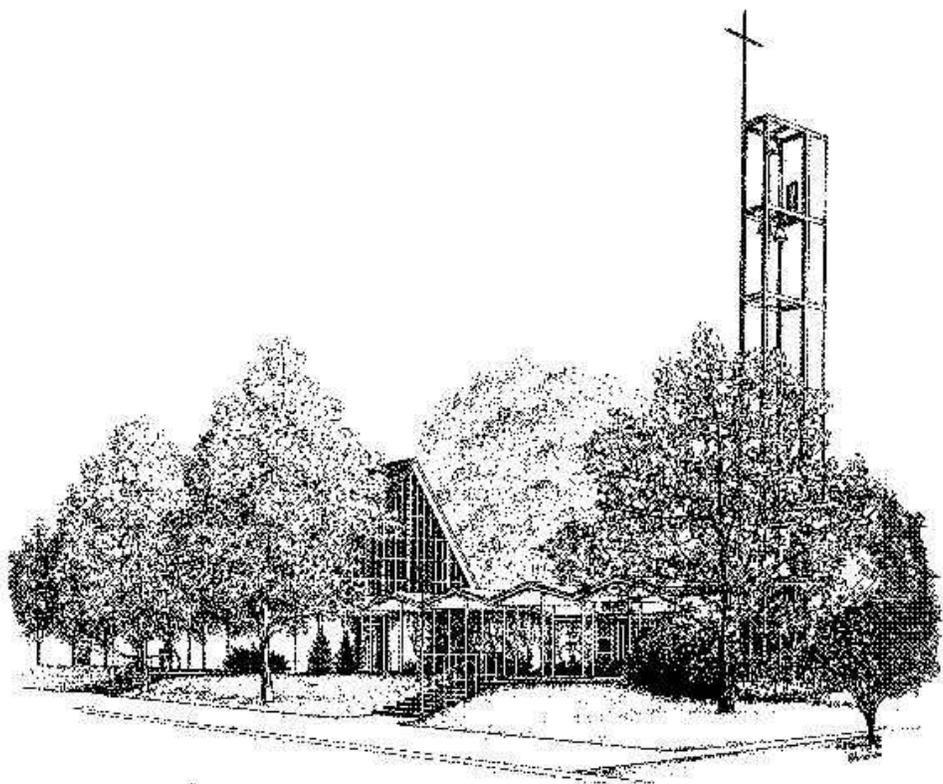


St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting



Sunday, February 10, 2008

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

Good Morning

It is an exciting honor to come to this Annual Meeting Sunday as the sixth rector of St. Mark's. I am particularly pleased to join the congregation at this moment in our life as a parish, a moment that feels to be filled with a vibrant vitality around what God has done and will do through this congregation.

You and I stand today upon a firm and steady foundation of faith and hard work. Most Recently we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to a number of people: Our dedicated and wise wardens, Ellen Berndt and Bill Silliman; an energetic and spirit-filled search committee with Phil Glandon and Pat Iams in the lead; a focused and enormously productive Vestry; a caring and fun interim rector, Philip Colledge; a staff with whom it is a privilege to serve; and my predecessor, Dr. Vicki Smith who served with faith and a truly inspired vision for the future. We are blessed by these fine people and many, many others who make up this unique and diverse parish family—and I thank God for each of you.

In my brief time here, you have grown to tolerate my sense of humor, and comment kindly on my love of props and gadgets while preaching. You have also patiently endured a number of changes in the liturgy, from moving the baptismal font, to our new comprehensive service bulletin, to the increased role of vergers and the formation of the St. Mark's Verger's Guild. At each turn, Bruce and I have carefully tried to show the significance of each change and its meaning. It is my hope that when our liturgy finally comes together there will be a collective "ah - yes" and a sense of what the late Urban T. Holmes called: that Anglican environment "where our souls fall in love with God."

This Liturgy will be at the heart of our congregational life, where we come out of the controversies and turmoil of our world to be refreshed and reinvigorated, and out from which we go as the heart and hands and mind of Jesus Christ as nothing less than his beloved disciples. This is a tall order, make no mistake. Yet this is a gifted and truly wonderful congregation. Still, it will take each and every one of us to discern where God may be calling us to go, and to realize the incredible opportunities that lie ahead following where the Holy Spirit may lead.

A few short notes from my few short months in 2007. September saw the call of a new Youth Minister at St. Mark's—Dan Karl—who is doing an outstanding job, and to whom our young people are already turning during some of the most challenging times of their lives. In addition, the year witnessed a most happy miracle, as the number of children in our Church School program continued to grow, and began to approach the maximum capacity of our education wing. Anticipating this, we made plans to move Associate Rector Bruce Smith's office to the Conference Room, and the volunteer desk in the Conference Room to the Oratory. To make it simple: if you want to see someone in a collar - start walking THAT way—and keep on going and going and going! My Installation service in December was a time of great festivities, from the glorious music, the beautiful and elegant reception, to one of the largest loose offerings collected going in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The year ended with what was truly the best Christmas pageant ever—and the lifting high of Christ's light during the singing of Silent Night. It's hard to imagine worship getting any better than this.

So what is in store for 2008? What of this bright new year that lies ahead?

It is a great pleasure to welcome to St. Mark's this morning two very dear friends: Bill and Becky Cyrus from St. John's in Huntington, West Virginia. Bill was senior warden of that parish when it welcomed so warmly a newly ordained deacon from Vermont called Paul—fresh out of seminary and more than a little wet behind the ears. So much of what I have learned about vestries and parish dynamics, of ministry outside of seminary "in the real world," I have learned from the wise and kind hearts of Becky and Bill.

I remember a number of occasions at St. John's when we had to make a major purchase for the parish. Sometimes these would involve negotiating the price of a particular item or project. Bill would take us to the manager and firmly ask for a discount on whatever was quoted. The manager usually took off ten percent saying they liked to support non-profits. Bill would then look him right in the eye and say: "Thank you. That's what you're doing for the church. Now, what are you going to do for God?" It was usually worth another ten percent.

My friends, In so many ways that is the question for all of us in 2008. What are we going to do for God? How are we to

grow into our very best selves, ever closer to who God would have us be? How are we to reach out into our hurting world in the name of Christ?

As your Rector, I have three charges for us today:

First, deepen our sense of Christian community. This will be done through worship together. It will be done by deliberate prayer for and by the many groups that make up our parish. We must be a church that prays and cares for each other whenever and however we gather. I call upon the Vestry to help each group at St. Mark's—from Acolytes to Communications to Finance—to be people of prayer.

Deepening our community also involves being more welcoming—a parish that does not shy away from the “radical hospitality” modeled for us by Jesus Christ. We must look for ways to make our campus more “user friendly” for both new people and long term members alike. Everything from signs to exterior lighting should be addressed. I had a reporter call recently from the Columbus Dispatch. She was late for a meeting with me. “I need directions,” she said, “I’ve been up and down Redding and Tremont Roads and I don’t see a church.” People have to find us. Once they do, we need more Parish Greeters, and the formation of a Welcome Team to help new members enter into this community, and help make St. Mark’s “their” parish, not “our parish” as quickly as possible.

Second, In order for us to live into any of the first charge we must get our physical “house” in order. Many of us are aware of the numerous roof problems we have had of late—from the hail damaged skylight to ice dams over the new parish hall. We are addressing these issues and will continue to do so. We are blessed with available funds needed to take the necessary steps. Yet, what some people do not know, and now must be told, is that parts of the old Parish Hall and Educational Wing are in critical crisis. The West and North wall of the building are failing and need immediate attention. The wood is so rotten that you can take a pen and push it through into the building. Our church school classrooms are not just over crowded, they are falling apart. The answer to mold and mildew here is not more cans of Lysol, it’s replacing the exterior walls: a project that could cost upwards of \$300,000. I’m afraid funds for this project are simply not available. In order to make the repair that must be made, a capitol campaign is mandatory. In the next few months we will all be learning more about this. Meanwhile, I invite everyone to exit after lunch today by the lower blue door in the Education Wing - and look up at “the wailing wall” as Bruce has dubbed it. Members of the Vestry will be available to answer questions. When the time comes, please be generous in your giving.

Lastly, we must be attentive to our “spiritual house” as well. This is the very reason for having a physical campus in the first place. I would like St. Mark’s to look for ways to more fully live into the Millennium Development Goals in a “hands-on” way, with particular emphasis on an humanitarian trip into the Third World in 2008. This could be a trip overseas, or it could be a trip into parts of our own country.

You know, one of the most meaningful ways I have grown spiritually in the last decade has been by travel into the Third World, and actually spending time working side by side residents of La Labor, Guatemala and Sablino, Russia. My friends, I firmly believe that we send our resources into the Third World to help change it, and we send ourselves there to help change US. I hope and trust that through the Holy Spirit this change may be ever more into the likeness of our Lord who promises his transforming power is already among us.

And so... Those are my charges for the New Year. If we think St. Mark’s has been a vibrant and busy and growing place in the past we’d be right. You all got this wonderful place started—there’s no slowing down now!

The Lord be with you.

(response)

Let us pray:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

2008 ANNUAL MEETING
ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLUMBUS, OH
FEBRUARY 10, 2008
11:00 AM

AGENDA

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. APPROVAL OF 2007 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
3. INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT WARDENS, VESTRY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES
4. RECOGNITION
 - OUTGOING WARDENS AND VESTRY MEMBERS
 - TREASURER AND CLERK
5. PRESENTATION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
6. ELECTION
 - SENIOR WARDEN
 - JUNIOR WARDEN
 - YOUTH WARDEN
 - VESTRY MEMBERS
 - CONVENTION DELEGATES
7. 2007 FINANCIAL REPORT
8. PRESENTATION OF 2008 BUDGET
9. DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
10. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES FROM ST. MARK'S ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 11, 2007

The 2007 annual meeting was held in the sanctuary following the Sunday 10 AM worship service. The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by the Interim Rector, The Rev. Philip College, at 11:15 AM. A booklet containing the Interim Rector's report, committee reports, Parish statistics and items to be discussed at the meeting was available for all who attended as well as for parish members unable to attend the meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, minutes of the 2006 annual meeting were approved as presented.

Fr. Philip introduced the Vestry members as follows:

Sr. Warden: Ellen Berndt

Jr. Warden: Bill Silliman was out of town and unable to attend.

Retiring Vestry: Phil Glandon, B. J. Hauswirth, Stan Laughlin

Continuing Vestry: Matt Bester, Barbara Hyre, Amy Keller, Andi Waller, John Goettler, Jeff Porterfield, Ted Meyers and Park Zimpher.

Fr. Philip thanked the Wardens, Vestry and Treasurer, Dot Yeager, Bookkeeper, Rick Moore and Clerk, Virgene Heckman for their service. He also announced that the Treasurer, Bookkeeper and Clerk will each serve for another year. Gifts were presented to the retiring members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee, chaired by Stan Laughlin, was made up of outgoing Vestry members. In addition, the Wardens and Clergy serve as ex-officio members. The chairman presented the following slate:

Senior Warden: Ellen Berndt

Junior Warden: Bill Silliman

Youth Warden: Katie Hyre

Vestry (three year terms): Larry Burton, Lindsay Graves, Pat Kirkley, John Marchak

Diocesan Convention Delegates: Stan Laughlin, Joy Sargent

There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and by MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED the nominees were elected by acclamation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dot Yeager presented the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2006 and the budget for 2007. She began her report by acknowledging and thanking the volunteers who help with the financial records and bookkeeping: Pat Barton, Maggie Hutchinson, Gloria Wylie and Rick Moore Special gifts received during the year reduced the amount needed to be withdrawn from the additional staff fund to balance the 2006 budget. Also transfers were made from the Trinity Guild Fund to cover the cost of some building repairs The budget for 2007 shows income based on pledges in hand and estimated additional income. The Diocesan standard calls for staff increases of 3% each year and because there was no increase in 2006, the budget provides for a 6% increase in 2007 ... The amount pledged is greater than for 2006, but we will still have a deficit estimated at \$ 45,387 for the year which will have to be made up from the Additional Staff Fund ... In addition to this, there is a need for major repairs to the outer east wall of the education building and possibly extensive organ maintenance. These issues will have to be addressed when we have determined what is needed and what the cost will be.

DISCUSSION

Fr. Philip urged all attending to stay for potluck dinner and thanked Andi Waller and the Vestry for arranging it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Associate Rector, The Rev. Bruce Smith at 11:30 .

Respectfully Submitted,
Virgene Heckman, *Clerk*

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee consists of the outgoing Vestry members,
as well as the Clergy and Wardens who serve ex-officio.

CURRENT VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN: Ellen Berndt

JUNIOR WARDEN: Bill Silliman

YOUTH WARDEN: Katie Hyre

CLASS OF 2008

Matthew Bester
Barbara Hyre
Amy Keller
Andrea Waller

CLASS OF 2009

John Goettler
Jeff Porterfield
Ted Meyers
Park Zimpher

CLASS OF 2010

Larry Burton
Lindsay Graves
Pat Kirkley
John Marchak

TO BE ELECTED AT ST. MARK'S ANNUAL MEETING, 2008

SENIOR WARDEN: Bill Silliman

JUNIOR WARDEN: Barbara Keyes

YOUTH WARDEN: Katie Hyre

VESTRY CLASS OF 2011 (4)

Anice Ellis
Pat Iams
Katie Renner
Marilyn Smith

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES (2)

Jim Sullivan
Pat Barton

The Senior and Junior Wardens are delegates, ex-officio.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ALTERNATES (4)

John Marchak
BJ Hauswirth
Dave Yeager
Andrea Waller

BIOS OF ST. MARK'S VESTRY NOMINEES:

WARDENS:

Bill Silliman (Senior Warden): Bill and his wife Dianne have been members of St. Mark's since about 1980. Bill is a former Senior Warden, Junior Warden and is the current Junior Warden. Bill has been active in many aspects of St. Mark's life including service on Vestry, as a Chalice Bearer, Lay reader, choir member, and coffee guild volunteer. Bill and Dianne have raised two children at St. Marks. Their son, Chris, is living and working in the Columbus area and their daughter, Erin, is living and working in Washington D.C. Bill has worked in the Mental Health and Addictions field for 34 years. He has been the Clinical Director at North Central Mental Health for the past 18 years. In his spare time Bill enjoys riding his bike, playing the piano and reading Stephen King books.



Barbara Keyes (Junior Warden): Barb Keyes has been a member at St. Mark's since 1981. She's been involved in many areas of church life. Barb recently retired from the choir after 20 years. She previously served on the Vestry working in the facilities area, and is active with the Layweedeers and grounds crew in the summer. She has volunteered with Fellowship and serves on the Coffee Guild and co-chairs the Altar Guild. Recently she was on the calling committee for our successful rector search. Barb's husband Jim is also an active member of St. Mark's. Barb works in the Olentangy school district teaching reading to primary school students and coaching classroom teachers on improving their teaching practices.



Katie Hyre (Youth Warden): Katie Hyre is a junior at Upper Arlington High School. She's on the water polo and swim teams, and is a member of the Arlingtonian staff. Katie was baptized at St. Mark's and has been active in Canterbury Choir, youth group and as an acolyte. This will be Katie's second term as Youth Warden.



VESTRY MEMBERS:

Anice Ellis (Fellowship): Anice and her husband Michael (an Episcopal Priest retired from the diocese of Maryland) joined St. Mark's in 1997. Anice was previously on Vestry and is a former Sr. Warden. She is involved in many St. Mark's activities including the St. Mark's book groups, she is a Chalice Bearer and Layreader, the leading founder and organizer of the St. Mark's Supper Club, Kitchen Coordinator, Coffee Guild member, Memorial Reception volunteer, member of the Phone Prayer Chain, Member Care Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry ... enough said! Anice's children, Martha Crone and David Ellis—and their families—also attend St. Mark's.



Pat Iams (Facilities): Pat is a "cradle Episcopalian" from the Diocese of Wyoming. Her family joined St. Mark's in 1981. Pat's many activities at St. Mark's include teaching Sunday School, serving on the Vestry, as Jr. and Sr. Warden, serving as liaison between the church and the construction company during our recent renovations, and co-chairing the recent Search Committee. Pat's latest "title" is Building Supervisor, which means she oversees the contracts and work of the various service providers we hire at St. Mark's. She is a member of the Coffee Guild, the St. Mark's Book Club, and a small, informal prayer group. Pat's husband Jay and three of her children—Sara Iams, Molly Leibowitz, and Andy Iams—and their families, are also members of St. Mark's.



Emilie Catherine (Katie) Renner (Formation): Katie was baptized in St. John's Episcopal Church in Lancaster, Ohio (and confirmed in the First United Methodist Church up the street from it, because the Episcopal church had no youth group). She and her husband David were married at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Columbus. They joined St. Marks soon after they moved to Arlington in 2001. Katie is a Vacation Bible School volunteer, Sunday School teacher and Coffee Guild volunteer. She is a full-time Mom to Sarah and Paul and a part-time adjunct professor of Environmental Science at Ohio Dominican University. She also serves on the Board of Supervisors for the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.



Marilyn Smith (Small Groups): Marilyn is a long-time member of St. Mark's. Over the past years she has served on Vestry and been involved in activities including High School Youth Group Leader, Education Commission, Nursery Supervisor, Administrative Assistant to Rector Ed Chalfant for one year, Church School Superintendent, Outreach Chair, Organist/Choirmaster Selection Committee, Choir Member, St. John's Dinners volunteer and Liaison Committee, Parish Health Ministry, and Capital Campaign Committee member. Most recently, she served on the Rector Search/Transition Committee, the Coffee House Committee, as a Layreader, the Thursday morning Communion/Breakfast Group, Memorial Service Reception volunteer, Coffee Guild, Supper Club, and St. Mark's book groups. Marilyn is a retired Secondary School English Teacher, and has been an active community and school volunteer. Most recently, she has served on the Board of Trustees and as an advocate for the Central and Southern Ohio Chapter of ALS. Prior to his death, Marilyn's husband Norman was an active member of St. Mark's. Her children Greg Smith and Valerie



Respectfully Submitted,

The Nominating Committee

Matthew Bester
Barbara Hyre
Amy Keller

Andrea Waller
Ellen Berndt
Bill Silliman

The Rev. Paul St. Germain
The Rev. Bruce Smith

ST. MARK'S PARISH STATISTICS 2007

NUMBER OF SERVICES: Sundays 102 (2006 - 94)
Weekdays 103 (2006 - 116)

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 12,284 (2006 – 11,356)

SPECIAL DAYS:	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
FIRST LENT:	174	276	198	196	173
EASTER:	433	472	489	474	585
PENTECOST:	166	190	200	126	205
CHRISTMAS:	508	527	455	419	545

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:

JANUARY – MAY: 169 (2006 – 165) (Does *not* include Easter)
JUNE – AUGUST: 148 (2006 – 122)
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER: 195 (2006 – 190) (Does *not* include Christmas)

OVERALL AVERAGE: 171 (2006 – 159) (Does *not* include Easter and Christmas)

BAPTISMS : 7
WEDDINGS: 2
CONFIRMATIONS: 0
NEW MEMBERS: 18
BURIALS: 4
TRANSFERS OUT: 2
(or moved to inactive)

TOTAL MEMBERS: approximately 729*
COMMUNICANTS: approximately 596*

** It is very difficult and time consuming to maintain an accurate and up to date record of membership.*

SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS — 02/25/2008

	YEAR-TO-DATE THROUGH DECEMBER 2007			2008
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	BUDGET
Receipts:				
Pledges/member contributions	\$ 478,018	\$ 480,000	\$ (1,982)	\$ 505,000
Endowment Fund income	11,038	12,000	(962)	11,038
Plate	8,546	6,300	2,246	8,500
Special purpose offerings	6,012	3,000	3,012	6,000
Non-pledge receipts	11,085	5,000	6,085	5,000
Interest income	3,989	4,000	(11)	3,000
Outside groups	3,745	4,000	(255)	3,745
Rental income	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Visitor receipts	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Total receipts	526,933	519,300	7,633	546,783
Add: Transfers from Music/Flower/Altar	<u>2,428</u>	<u>4,878</u>	<u>(2,450)</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total receipts and other sources	<u>529,361</u>	<u>524,178</u>	<u>5,183</u>	<u>551,783</u>
Disbursements:				
Staff-ministry	164,672	183,951	19,279	179,620
Staff-music	80,433	80,260	(173)	83,002
Staff-office	36,474	36,744	270	38,047
Staff-payroll taxes and other	8,029	8,350	321	16,274
Administration	38,493	34,415	(4,078)	42,389
Stewardship	30	500	470	1,000
Facilities	85,847	83,500	(2,347)	89,144
Outreach	15,339	16,000	661	16,000
Mission Share	94,655	94,597	(58)	96,354
Christian education & development:			-	
Formation (EI Ed/Nurs/VBS)	2,383	3,550	1,167	3,550
Adult Education	1,376	1,800	424	1,800
Youth	1,665	2,500	835	2,500
Confirmation and other	<u>266</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>550</u>
Total Christian education/development	5,690	8,400	2,710	8,400
Fellowship/hospitality	2,653	2,000	(653)	2,000
Small groups	100	600	500	900
Music	5,813	5,070	(743)	5,556
Worship expense	<u>545</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>755</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Total disbursements	538,773	555,687	16,914	579,986
Add: Rector Search expenses	7,973	9,000	1,027	5,058
Add: Flower/Music/Altar Guilds	<u>2,428</u>	<u>4,878</u>	<u>2,450</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total disbursements and other uses	<u>549,174</u>	<u>569,565</u>	<u>20,391</u>	<u>590,044</u>
Surplus/(deficit from operations)	(19,813)	(45,387)	25,574	(38,261)
Transfers from Additional Staff Fund	<u>20,000</u>	<u>45,400</u>	<u>(25,400)</u>	<u>39,000</u>
Receipts in excess of disbursements	<u>\$ 187</u>	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$ 174</u>	<u>\$ 739</u>

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION — DECEMBER 31, 2007
RESTRICTED RESERVES AND ENDOWMENT FUND

Summary of Restricted Reserve Funds:

Trinity Guild	\$ 81,174
Additional Staff Fund	51,080
Music Funds	10,335
All Saints	7,913
General Funds (including Flower Guild, Altar Guild, etc.)	6,970
Memorial Gifts	3,269
Other	<u>3,461</u>
 Total Restricted Reserve Funds	 \$164,202

The Trinity Guild Fund:

Established to provide reserve funds for major capital maintenance and repairs.

Additional Staff Fund:

Established to provide reserve funds to sustain our two-clergy staff.

The St. Mark's Endowment Fund:

Established in 1978 to protect the long-term financial health of St. Mark's and managed by separately elected Trustees. The fund's yearly investment income is transferred to St. Mark's for use in the operating budget as needed. Gifts totaling \$7,576 in memory of Beth Gilbert were received earlier this year and have been recorded as permanently restricted. As of December 31, the Endowment stood at \$228,622.72.

- Financial Reports submitted by Dot Yeager, Treasurer

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

In my report to the Annual Meeting last year I wrote that 2006 was a year of much activity and change. 2007 was a continuation of that activity and change, and it was exciting!

We were blessed in 2007 to have Father Philip guide us through the interim period up to the time we called our new rector. Under Father Philip's guidance we became more aware of welcoming newcomers. To further this end, we continued with two services over the summer and welcomed many new faces. We also began to formalize a welcoming ministry which you will soon see in action. In September, we welcomed our new Rector. I'm confident that under Father Paul's guidance, energy and enthusiasm, St. Mark's many activities and small groups will continue and grow and our education and worship experiences will continue to enrich our lives.

I encourage you to read this annual report carefully. Marvel at how vibrant our church school and music programs are, and how extensive our outreach to the community and the world is. Read carefully the facilities report and the financial statements. Take a look at our parish statistics and read the biographical statements of those members who have accepted the call to become members of the Vestry class of 2010. Thank you Anice, Katie, Marilyn and Pat.

I hope that you will continue to pray about your interests and talents, and where you might become involved at St. Mark's in 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on Vestry and as a Warden for the past several years. We at St. Marks are very blessed. Thanks be to God.

Ellen German Berndt

LIVING AS STEWARDS AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

February 2008

Dear friends in Christ,

For Christians, stewardship is a way of life, or should be. It is what we do with what we have, all the time, to the glory of God. Stewardship is our grateful response to God for the gifts we have been given by God, through the giving of our time, talents and financial resources. And, we are called to be good stewards of all of God's creation including the earth, the seas, the skies and all that has life and breath.

Living the life of a steward involves keeping the promises we made in The Baptismal Covenant. These include faithfulness in worship, resisting the evils of the world which confront us, proclaiming by word and example the love of Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being.

Our wardens, vestry and treasurer are the elected leaders of our congregations who work together with each other and our clergy to guide the congregation in its mission and ministry to the members of the congregation and to the wider community. They are, for example, entrusted with the management of the funds, pledges, and bequests given to the church. They are entrusted with the care of the church building and property. We, the congregation, have elected them to act on our behalf, making them *stewards* of the trust they have been given.

Our clergy are raised up to their ordained ministry by God's call as well as by the affirmation of the wider community. At their ordinations they make promises before God and the assembled community as to how they will live their lives as deacons or priests. In living out their ordination vows, the clergy are acting as *stewards* of the trust put in them by God, by their bishop, by their congregation, and by their friends and family.

As responsible stewards we are all called, lay members and clergy alike, to give what we can of our time, talents and financial resources to God through the ministry we all share at St. Mark's. Last year we lifted up the stewardship of our time and talents as we asked folks to discern and offer their gifts for ministry. Many of you did just that, and we are grateful.

The funding of the ministry of St. Mark's Church depends on the financial commitment and generosity of our parishioners. That is why we ask all of our parishioners to make financial commitments in the fall for the coming year. That level of commitment has been increasing slowly but steadily over the last few years, and we thank God for that. Elsewhere in this Annual Report are charts that provide some statistics about giving at St. Mark's for 2008 including a look at annual giving over a 7 year period.

We need to point out that our regular financial giving should be guided primarily by our relationship with God, and not just by the financial needs of our local congregation. So, we continue to lift up before the people of St. Mark's practice of proportionate (or percentage) giving, that is, the giving of a predetermined percentage of our income to God through the work of the church. And, we encourage all of the people of St. Mark's to consider the biblical tithe (10%) as their standard of financial giving to God. We recognize that not everyone can do this, but the biblical tithe remains our goal. Just imagine how much we could do, how many we could help, if everyone at St. Mark's began to tithe!

Faithfully yours in Christ,



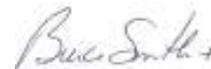
Phil Glandon



John Marchak



Jeff Porterfield



The Rev. Bruce Smith

“But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13:15, 16

DISTRIBUTION OF 2008 ESTIMATES OF GIVING

	Annual Giving Range	Households	%age	Annual Dollars	%age	Average
1	\$10,000 to \$30,000	8	4.28%	\$ 122,700.00	24.78%	\$ 15,337.50
2	\$5,000 to \$9,999	22	11.76%	\$ 138,740.00	28.02%	\$ 6,306.36
3	\$3,000 to \$4,999	26	13.90%	\$ 88,720.00	17.92%	\$ 3,412.31
4	\$2,000 to \$2999	29	15.51%	\$ 65,840.00	13.30%	\$ 2,270.34
5	\$1,000 to \$1,999	34	18.18%	\$ 45,300.00	9.15%	\$ 1,332.35
6	\$500 to \$999	40	21.39%	\$ 26,183.00	5.29%	\$ 654.58
7	Under \$500	28	14.97%	\$ 7,712.00	1.56%	\$ 275.43
8	Totals	187	100.00%	\$ 495,195.00	100.00%	\$ 2,648.10
	Category	Households	%age	Annual Dollars	%age	Average
1	New or Reinstated	31	16.58%	\$ 41,022.00	8.28%	\$ 1,323.29
2	Increases	71	37.97%	\$ 262,789.00	53.07%	\$ 3,701.25
3	Same as 2007	62	33.16%	\$ 161,164.00	32.55%	\$ 2,599.42
4	Decreases	23	12.30%	\$ 30,220.00	6.10%	\$ 1,313.91
5	Totals	187	100.00%	\$ 495,195.00	100.00%	\$ 2,648.10

NOTES:

84% of giving comes from 45% of households (\$2000 and up)

16% of giving comes from 55% of households (under \$2000)

SEVEN YEAR GIVING HISTORY

Year:	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
1 Total Annual Dollars	\$466,334	\$435,411	\$423,795	\$423,319	\$431,635	\$471,369	\$495,195
2 Change on total \$		(\$30,923)	(\$11,616)	(\$476)	\$8,316	\$39,734	\$23,826
3 % Change from Prior year		-6.63%	-2.67%	-0.11%	1.96%	9.21%	5.05%
4 Cumulative % chg		-6.63%	-9.12%	-9.22%	-7.44%	1.08%	13.73%
5 Total Households Giving	220	190	176	168	168	174	187
6 Change in households		30	14	8	0	6	13
7 % Change from Prior year		-13.64%	-7.37%	-4.55%	0.00%	3.57%	7.47%
8 Cumulative % chg		-13.64%	-20.00%	-23.64%	-23.64%	-20.91%	-1.58%
9 Average Annual Giving	\$2,120	\$2,292	\$2,408	\$2,520	\$2,569	\$2,709	\$2,648
10 Change in Average		\$172	\$116	\$112	\$50	\$140	(\$61)
11 % Change from Prior year		8.11%	5.07%	4.64%	1.96%	5.44%	-2.25%
12 Cumulative % chg		8.11%	13.60%	18.87%	21.21%	27.80%	15.56%

NOTES:

Highest total annual dollar amount in 7 years

Third highest total participation in 7 years - highest since 2003

Second highest Average Giving in 7 years

- Above Reports submitted by The Rev. Bruce Smith
2/08/2008

ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER'S REPORT

New Choristers

Our ongoing New Choristers program prepares boys and girls ages 7 to 12 for entrance into the Canterbury Choir. The children follow the Royal School of Church Music "Voice for Life" curriculum. Sessions are tailored to the individual child's needs, and can begin at any time on an individual basis or in groups of two or three. This past fall, we welcomed four new choristers, three of whom joined the Choir in January 2008.

Canterbury Choir

Canterbury Choir, in its 2007-2008 season, has a total of nine members. As customary for the past sixteen years, we began our fall season with Choir Orientation on Labor Day weekend. The choir puts on two annual fund-raising projects, the proceeds of which help meet the costs of year-end educational trips and, every three years, trips to Washington National Cathedral. As our autumn fund-raiser, the boys and girls make and sell buckeyes, and every January "Super Bowl Subs." Two potluck dinners, fall and spring, offered fellowship with choir parents and the choirmaster.

St. Mark's Choir

St. Mark's Choir currently has thirty-two members. In 2007, the choir presented two choral evensongs and Advent Lessons and Carols. As always, these services were open to the community and again this year attendance surpassed the previous year's. The choir provided music for our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies and for the Great Vigil of Easter. The Choir accepted an invitation from the American Guild of Organists to sing choral evensong in June 2007, here at St. Mark's, for the Midwest regional convention. Three hundred organists, choirmasters, and clergy attended, from twenty-two states.

Music Series Launched

Our St. Mark's Music Series was launched this year past year. It presented Erik Wm. Suter, the organist of Washington National Cathedral, in recital, Opus String Quartet, the chamber chorus Fior Angelico, and Columbus Children's Choir. This annual series is envisioned as encompassing our regular choral evensongs and including an annual organ recital by a major artist. It will also encourage young musicians who are just starting out on their careers.

Members of the choirs, the choir parents, the choir mothers, and the members of St. Mark's Choir give generously of their time and work for extra rehearsals on Saturday mornings and on other occasions, and for special activities of many kinds, and they arrive an hour ahead of time for every liturgy they sing. Each member of the St. Mark's Choir volunteers more than 400 hours of service to the parish every season. To each and every individual who contributes time, energy, talent, and dedication to St. Mark's music program, my heartfelt appreciation.

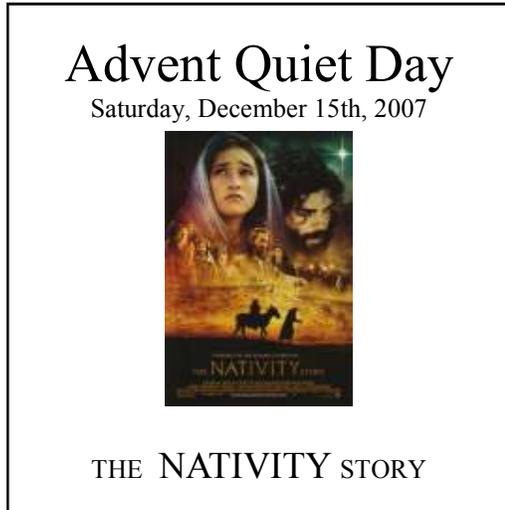
- Gary L. Garber, *Director of Music*

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear friends in Christ,

This past year saw a shift in programming for adult education programs at St. Mark's. We began the year with pretty much the same type of scheduling that we have used for several years, but made some changes in the latter half of the year.

An Adult Ed program from 2007



Six different Tuesday evening courses were offered between January and July, including the popular Lawn Chair Theologians program held in July. Sunday Morning forums met regularly throughout the year and covered a variety of topics. We also offered a Lenten Quiet Day and an Advent Quiet Day (particularly well attended!)

We have noticed over the past few years that attendance at evening programs, with the exception of the Kerygma Bible Studies has been declining. Winter weather is one factor. Driving at night is also a concern for some folks. We also noticed that the Sunday morning Forums were appealing to a regular but small group. In Advent we offered "The Gospels of Advent" and saw attendance at the Sunday Morning Forums double, so we continued offering Bible studies for Epiphany and Lent 2008.

What did we learn from all this? There is a hunger of Bible Study at St. Mark's, and that need is being met by the ongoing Wednesday Morning Bible Study, but also by the Sunday Morning Forums and by the recently

formed Men's Group which currently meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm.

Going forward in 2008, we will continue our focus at the Sunday Morning Forums on Bible Study but may provide other offerings from time to time. We will continue to offer Tuesday evening seminars from time to time, but not as frequently as in past years. We are also considering a film series for sometime in 2008.

The Adult Education Committee consists of Bob Graves, Stan Laughlin, Matt DeMatteo, and Gloria Wylie. While our face to face meetings are infrequent, we stay connected through modern technology – e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Bruce Smith
Associate Rector

FORMATION REPORT

Elementary Education (ages 3 through 5th grade) - submitted by Amy Keller

Sunday School continues to grow and thrive as we welcome many new families to St. Mark's. Sunday School enrollment is currently 48 children (25 families). Our attendance has continued to climb steadily with our average for the 2007/2008 school year at 22 children per Sunday. The 05/06 average was 12; 06/07 average was 14; and 07/08 average was 18. For this school year, our highest attendance was 32 (last years high was 26), and our lowest number was 11 (holiday weekend). Sunday School teachers and volunteers have worked very hard to put together engaging lessons using the Godly Play curriculum for the Preschool children, and a special study of the 10 Commandments, using the Kid's Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments, for the K-2nd grade classroom and the 3rd-5th grade classroom. We continue to add new stories and appropriate curriculum for our older children as we move to a new 3-year cycle of lessons and stories.

...Elementary Education *(continued)*

Because our enrollment continues to grow, we will continue to split the children into 3 classrooms, which requires a larger number of parent volunteers each week. Sunday School is in session for 28 Sundays (1 orientation) from September through May. Teachers this year are: Elizabeth Anstaett, Martha Belury, Anne Botti, John and Valerie Goettler, Amy Keller, Park Zimpher. Katie and David Renner, and Kathy Drobny. Our fantastic assistants are: Ted Keller, Jennifer Rubin-Koenig, Elizabeth McLaughlin, and Mara and Greg Smith. We are all looking forward to the upcoming repair and renovation of the Education Building, which will provide a much-needed increase in clean, safe, useable space for our children.

Thank you so much to everyone for your willingness to work hard, your flexibility, and your love and care for the children of St. Mark's. For questions about the Sunday School curriculum, schedule, or to volunteer, please contact Katie Renner.

Sunday School Outreach - *submitted by Amy Keller*

We have continued the tradition of taking a collection in Sunday School for Heifer International. The mission of Heifer International aligns perfectly with the Episcopal Church's Millennium Development Goals. The children continue to be excited about helping to provide food, resources, income, and hope through environmentally appropriate livestock and plant/garden materials to people around the world. Last year the children donated \$300 dollars, which was matched by the Outreach Committee. We donated \$600 toward the purchase of a water buffalo, pigs, llamas, rabbits, goats, chickens, honeybees, trees, and vegetable gardens. In 2007, we also collected food items for Mid-Ohio Food Bank Kid Packs. These child-friendly bags contain snacks, food to share with the family, and a toy or game to needy children over the summer. St. Mark's children also participated in collecting school supplies in the fall and hats/mittens for the hat/mitten tree at Christmas.

Vacation Bible School - *submitted by Amy Keller*

Kathy Drobny did an amazing job as coordinator of another amazing week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children ages 3 through 5th grade. This year's theme was Avalanche Ranch. 30 children participated (up from 21 the previous year). Adult and teen volunteers worked hard throughout the week during this high-energy, highly entertaining, and spiritually rich experience. We were fortunate to be able to offer VBS free to several children from St. Cyprians in Columbus. VBS is open to all St. Mark's children, their friends, family, and neighbors. We expect enrollment to continue to increase this year. Planning is already underway for Power Lab VBS this June 18th through June 22nd. Mark your calendars now.

Christmas Pageant - *submitted by Amy Keller*

Valerie and John Goettler organized and directed this year's Annual Christmas Pageant. Over 20 children participated in the Pageant along with the Canterbury Choir, 2 Youth Readers, several parents, and one grandparent. This beautiful tradition, paired with a candlelight Communion, was enjoyed by a very full house.

Kids at Nine and Nursery - *submitted by Barbara Hyre*

Roberta Morton continues to volunteer with the Kids at Nine program. She typically has 1 or 2 children at the 9:00am hour. Laura Karl graduated from high school and resigned her position as our paid nursery worker at the 10:00am service. Diedre Kelleher subsequently accepted the paid nursery worker position. We have about 9 volunteers working in the nursery; one St. Mark's mom and the rest are St. Mark's teens. The majority of teens serving in the nursery opt for "service hours" (required by many of the suburban school districts) rather than pay. Attendance in the nursery has been down this year, mostly because the previous nursery kids are now old enough to attend Sunday School.

Youth Ministry - *submitted by Paul St. Germain*

Youth Minister Erin Richards resigned during the interim period in 2007. With the excellent help of Barbara Hyre, meetings continued and the search for a new youth minister was begun. In September Daniel Karl was called and he began meeting with the St. Mark's/Trinity Youth immediately. A highlight of the year was to adopt a family through Good Will Industries, and to provide them with clothing, school supplies, and holiday items during November and December. St. Mark's fully funds the youth program on behalf of Trinity and St. Mark's.

FACILITIES GROUP REPORT

2007 followed the tradition of years past in being a busy one for the facilities group, as we continued to work on old issues, along with a few new ones. What follows is a summary of the more notable developments:

Work continued on the skylight over the chancel. In October 2006 a hailstorm cracked several glass panels in the skylight and, in order to prevent further damage, it was covered with a tarp that remained in place through 2007. The process of replacing the skylight turned out to be more challenging than originally expected due to its custom build and the difficulty in locating a company to adequately replace it. After a prolonged search, the insurance company found a company to handle the replacement. Architectural reviews and city reviews followed, and the skylight has been ordered. Because of its custom nature, it is built to the exact specifications of the opening and should be installed in the spring of 2008.

The vestry contracted with the architectural firm of Behal, Sampson & Dietz of Columbus to create a design for the western wall of the education building, including a portion of the southern wall, that has deteriorated and rotted over the past years due to water damage and exposure to the elements. We sought a design that was in keeping with the current one, but with lower maintenance and less opportunity for rot. After going back and forth with the architect, a committee determined that a “storefront system”, similar to the front of Johnston Hall with its aluminum panels, is the best solution. Unfortunately, this involves major construction work that would impact the entire building and needs to be delayed until the spring when the weather is better.

Similarly to the crumbling façade of the western wall, the wall that runs along the handicap ramp from the parish hall to the office building is deteriorating. The architect proposed some solutions for its repair, or suggested it could be removed and replaced with a wrought-iron railing – the solution most attractive to the committee. We expect this to take place simultaneously with the repairs on the education building.

Water continues to be a frustrating factor for many parishioners at St. Mark’s, your vestry included. Frozen drainage pipes over the winter led to a flooding of Johnston Hall in February and flooding in the Narthex during Lent. The problem is two-fold: frozen and clogged subterranean drain pipes led to a backup of rainwater in Johnston Hall; and poor roof grading and patching led to leaks around the drainpipe in the Narthex. In the late fall, Roto Rooter cleared out the drainage pipes and, with that, brought out a considerable amount of construction debris. We are fairly certain that, as long as the drains are kept unblocked at the curb end, the leaks and flooding in Johnston Hall will be eliminated. Repair of the flat roof over the Narthex will take place around the same time as the education building and wall along the handicap ramp.

Visitors to St. Mark’s have felt more welcome with the addition of directional signs throughout the complex. The second test has been very successful and we will be bidding out the project in the first half of the year.

The expected costs of the repairs to the education building, ramp wall and roof are considerable. Thanks to kind donations from anonymous parishioners, the Trinity Guild Fund had a year-end balance of approximately \$65,500. The repair project, however, is anticipated to cost several times that. Sources of funding are being investigated.

Before concluding, the facilities group would like to thank all of the parishioners – those known and unknown – who have helped keep St. Mark’s up and running over the last year. From the volunteers at the work days to those who simply turn out lights in empty rooms or ensure doors are properly shut and locked, we wouldn’t be able to do it without you.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Bester
Ted Meyers

SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY REPORT

The Small Groups Ministry represents many active groups:

- One of the newer additions is the **Coffee House**. There were three Coffee Houses this year; the themes included a Talent Show, Success Stories From A Failing School and viewing of 15 Nativity Scenes. All were well attended. Jim Keyes is the chairman and can be reached at 459-1189 or jim-keyes17@wowway.com.
- St. Mark's offers **two Book Clubs**. One is the 4th Monday Evening of every month (Susan Galbreath, 486-0180) and the other is the 1st Tuesday Lunch Book Club (Martha Wheeler, 486-3313).
- The St. Mark's **Bridge Club** meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month with up to three tables playing (Marlene Marchak, 451-6433).
- The **Golf League** (Jim Keyes, 459-1189) and the Roaring Lions Softball team (Greg Smith, 485-9047) allow parishioners to enjoy the summer months together in outdoor events.
- Please see the information on the **Supper Club** below.

All groups are welcoming new members.

- Submitted by Lindsay Graves and Park Zimpher

- **St. Mark's Supper Club** is in it's 6th year of fun, fellowship and good eating. The group totals 45 persons and we have five groups of eight or nine in each group. We gather as a large group three times a year. This year we had a Tailgate appetizer and dessert party in September; in December we hosted the reception for Fr. Paul's installation and in April we'll sponsor the Pot Luck Supper in conjunction with the Talent Show.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 6:30 in the evening from September through June. This is a great way for newcomers to get to know St. Mark's members in a small group setting. All are welcome—couples and singles alike! Would you like more information? Call Anice Ellis at 529-9597.

- Submitted by Anice Ellis

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Outreach Committee had a productive year, and it is our hope that the membership of the committee will continue to build upon this framework in the upcoming year.

The committee was organized in the spring of 2007, and with input from Interim Rector, Phillip College, established a goal of more closely aligning the Outreach Committee to reflect the work and interest of members of the parish. As such, members of several small group ministries were asked to serve on the Outreach Committee, and bring information to the committee as well as take information back to their respective small group. For example, Clyde Tipton has served on the board of Episcopal Retirement Homes for many years, and as such, Clyde was asked to serve on the Outreach Committee.

I. Outreach Committee Goals, Budget and Objectives

The budget for this year was \$16,000.

The desire of the committee was to establish a more effective framework for considering the various options for Outreach funding. The end result was a decision to establish Tier One organizations, Tier Two organizations and Tier Three organizations, as follows:

Tier One organizations would be organizations that have a long history with St. Mark's; and/or St. Mark's parish members are involved with the organization; and/or we hope to continue on-going support on an annual basis. The Outreach Committee will endeavor to promote these organizations and their important work in an effort to seek additional volunteer support, additional financial support by our parish members, and to encourage more robust parish involvement.

Tier Two organizations would be organizations that have been supported by St. Mark's Church through volunteer support and/or parish collection activity. The Outreach Committee will endeavor to promote these organizations and their work in an effort to encourage more robust parish involvement.

Tier Three organizations would be organizations that request one-time gifts; and/ or non-profit organizations that have requested funding from the Outreach Committee; and/or non-profit organizations with parish involvement and interest but not viewed as a tier one or tier two organizations.

II. The Outreach Committee approved funding for the following TIER ONE organizations in 2007:

- **Episcopal Community Services Foundation:** ECSF is a diocesan-wide organization that funds small grants to churches throughout the Diocese. The committee granted \$1,500 to support ECSF.
- **Episcopal Retirement Homes:** St. Mark's has enjoyed a long and close relationship with ERH over the years. The committee funded the amount of \$3,500 to support the endowment fund for Canterbury Court.
- **Episcopal Relief and Development:** The committee approved funding of \$2,000 to fund the work of ERD.
- **St. John's Town Street:** Members of the committee discussed our interest in funding our on-going work and relationship with St. John's. The committee approved funding in the amount of \$1,000.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Chip Botti has reestablished St. Mark's relationship with the Northwest Partnership. The committee approved funding of \$3,000 in support of Habitat for Humanity.
- **Heifer Project International:** The committee made two grants to Heifer: one grant was a \$300 match in support of the donations made by St. Mark's Sunday School Group; and the committee also approved a grant of \$1,000 in support of the work of Heifer.

III. TIER TWO organizations/collections

The Outreach committee and our church are lucky to have Rick Moore and Joy Sargent as active members. These two, along with many others, have continued to promote and coordinate our on-going parish wide collection efforts. Rick Moore continued to coordinate the monthly collections and deliver them to NNEMAP.

In addition, Committee members agreed to work on establishing a collection schedule. While work continues on the schedule, the following collections were completed:

- AUGUST: A great response for **Tools for Schools** and school supplies
- SEPTEMBER: **Children's Hunger Alliance** in conjunction with **World Food Day** on October 14th and a loose change offering
- OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes had another great response
- DECEMBER: **Hat and Mitten Tree**

IV. Outreach Funding for TIER THREE organizations

The committee approved funding for the following organizations:

- \$1,500 in support of the **Mid-Ohio Food Bank**
- \$1,000 in support of **Urban Concern**
- \$450 for gift cards to give to new mothers in the **High Risk Perinatal Project** at **OSU Medical Center**
- \$250 to the **Interfaith Center for Peace**.

V. Members of the Outreach Committee

Please extend your gratitude to the following members of the committee: Chip Botti; Larry Burton, Co-Chair and Vestry representative; Carol Brothers, Rick Moore, Sally Rechner, Joy Sargent, Clyde Tipton, and Rev. Joan Maynard, Deacon and Clergy representative to the Committee.

- This report has been respectfully submitted by John G. Goettler, Vestry representative to the committee.



*Whoever you are, and wherever you
may be on the journey of the spirit,
the Episcopal Church welcomes you.*

www.stmarks-ua.org