



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT



It has been an event-filled year in the life of our nation and our world. As we have watched events in history unfold, Saint Mark's has not been an idle place by any means. We have taken new and bold steps in our faith community, allowing us to live into our call to build up the body of Christ, and support one another amidst the changes and chances of life.

Some of the highlights of our year together have included Saint Mark's enthusiastic support of the charges I set before the parish a year ago. We have proved ourselves a parish of action. Late last summer we reached out beyond the walls of our parish and sent members of our Youth Group to New Orleans where they toiled in oppressive heat to help build a church, restore a Day Care Center, and talked and prayed directly with residents of one of the poorest parishes in the city. Most importantly they came back and shared their story, inspiring us to find new ways to reach out in our own community.

Less than a week after their return we sent a delegation to LaLabor, Guatemala, where we began a relationship with the Sisters of the Precious Blood—a remarkable group of pioneering women who operate health clinics and a school in one of the most impoverished places on our planet. I am thrilled to report that Saint Mark's has been invited to return this summer, and we are looking for ways to create a support system for the work of the sisters right here in Columbus. We reached out in Christ's love—and we were touched by the Holy Spirit within.

In 2008 we launched a major capital campaign — “From Generation to Generation” — and called for an investment in our aging physical plant with a focus on children and our most senior members. We identified numerous projects, and through generous pledges reached almost fifty thousand dollars beyond our \$700,000 goal. Today our Church School is meeting in glistening new classrooms, the west and south wall to our Education Wing have been completely replaced, and progress is moving forward into a new nursery. We entered the church today through beautiful new clear glass doors, and are saying with our facility what we hold in our hearts: “Whoever you are and wherever you may be on the journey of the spirit, you are welcome at Saint Mark's.”

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the wonderful support of this congregation, and some very dedicated and hard working members of the staff. My thanks go to my colleagues in ministry, Bruce Smith and Joan Maynard, whose work with Christian formation and pastoral care has been an inspiration. Our superb music program under the direction of Gary Garber has been a joy to behold—and as for our organist, Michael Murray—we all know that it simply doesn't get any better than him. It was also an honor this year to travel with our Head Verger extraordinaire, Larry German, and members of the newly formed Saint Mark's Verger's Guild, to the National Vergers' Guild Conference in my hometown of Burlington, Vermont.

2008 has also been a year of transition on the staff. We bid a sad farewell to Kristy Messler, Saint Mark's Office Manager, after many years of outstanding service, and welcomed Jessica Ellis on board who has made a spirited and splendid start. We bade good-bye to Youth Minister Dan Karl as he moved to Florida to take up a teaching position, and said hello to Brad and Crystal Essex, who have hit the ground running. We also welcomed Bill Ryan to the staff who has retired after thirty years of project management for several a major contractors. For a mere honoraria Bill has spent countless hours overseeing our building work, and making every dollar pledged to our campaign go farther than we thought possible.

Thanks also go to a pair of wonderful and supportive Wardens, Bill Silliman and Barb Keyes, our tireless Treasurer, Dot Yeager, and a vestry that is a model of responsibility. I could continue with honest delight in the many, many people who have so warmly welcomed me during this first year as your rector, but as this address is being published and I have been told to save paper, so it is time to move on to our challenges for 2009.

Several years ago I was invited by a group of parishioners to visit a relatively new evangelical church in the south suburbs of Dayton. “The preacher is awesome,” I was told, “and they have already outgrown their worship space and have broken ground on a new building. You have GOT to come and hear this guy.” Well, I agreed, and after the praise band finished playing and colored lights moving about the stage the preacher came forward. “I have some hard news,” he began, “Many of you have contributed to our building project and we have raised almost three million dollars. But I’m afraid we can’t spend it on our new building. Our economy is deteriorating, times are hard, and we are going to stop our spending and lock our doors. We may have faith, but faith just isn’t enough.” He paused for dramatic effect. The room sat in stunned silence. “And if you believe what I just said,” he went on, “you sure don’t know us very well. We WILL move forward with faith—for we are about God’s work here and there is Kingdom to be built and souls to be fed with the Bread of heaven.”

As a visitor I did not know that church very well, and was very relieved to hear that they would move forward with faith, and not fear.

My friends, as we look around our world and at the state of the economy, it may be tempting to live out of fear, and not faith. As we watch the beautiful transformations of our building, it may be tempting to say: “Let’s stop—and wait and see what will happen before continuing.” I would assert this morning that that is exactly what we are NOT called to do. We, too, are called to move forward. We are called to be the rock, the anchor of faith amidst the storms of life. I was told just this week by one of the many workmen who are laboring around Saint Mark’s “Thank God for this church. If you weren’t doing this project I would be out of a job.” He was not the first to say it—and such comments are but a small outcome of following the Holy Spirit in faith, and continuing the improvements to our campus that make us more welcome, inviting and supportive of all who come here seeking a closer relationship with God.

The irony for us, however, is that as we see the beautiful work done to our building with funding that is coming out of the campaign funds, we are having to cut back this year as our operating budget has fallen. Most of our programs have had to have a modest decrease this year, and as our treasurer will explain later, with the exception of the outreach portion of the budget, we are tightening our belts. As Christians we are called to live our lives with one foot amidst the limitations of our world and one in the radical abundance of God’s Kingdom. Well, as we compare our shrinking budget with our increasingly beautiful building, there might be a particularly relevant analogy.

In closing today I would like to issue three other challenges. The first is to continue finding ways to “put a face” on outreach—to get to know the people we serve—to hear their stories—and make them a part of our life as a parish.

The second challenge is to make a commitment to better communication as a parish. Sharing our common life enriches all of us. We can’t participate in something we don’t know is happening—and if we don’t learn about what has happened we won’t know that we want to get involved.

The final challenge is to make newcomers and new members as welcome as you have made me feel in the last year. This is a wonderful, warm and inviting place—but there are things we do that we should not, and there are ways to be welcoming that we ignore to our own detriment. I haven’t found what parts of heaven and earth have to be moved at Saint Mark’s to get a welcome brunch for newcomers on the calendar yet—but fair warning: it’s coming!

And it looks like I’m just about out of paper.

Blessings,



The Rev. Paul St. Germain (Paul)

The Lord be with you. (Response)

Let us pray:

Loving and gracious God, in you we live and move and have our very being. Walk beside us on our earthly pilgrimage and give us your grace, that amidst the swift and varied choices of this world our hearts may always be fixed upon you, where true joys and an eternal home are to be found, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

2009 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. APPROVAL OF 2008 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
3. INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT WARDENS, VESTRY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES
4. RECOGNITION
 - OUTGOING 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. 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT
8. PRESENTATION OF 2009 BUDGET
9. SENIOR WARDEN'S ADDRESS
10. DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
11. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF OUTGOING VESTRY MEMBERS,
AS WELL AS THE CLERGY AND WARDENS WHO SERVE EX-OFFICIO.

CURRENT VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN: Bill Silliman **JUNIOR WARDEN:** Barb Keyes

YOUTH WARDEN: Katie Hyre

CLASS OF 2009	CLASS OF 2010	CLASS OF 2011
John Goettler	Larry Burton	Anice Ellis
Jeff Porterfield	Lindsay Graves	Pat Iams
Ted Meyers	Pat Kirkley	Katie Renner
Park Zimpher	John Marchak	Marilyn Smith

TO BE ELECTED AT SAINT MARK'S 2009 ANNUAL MEETING:

VESTRY CLASS OF 2012 (4)

Steve Brindza
Suzanne McConnell
Deborah Morton
Bill Reddington

YOUTH WARDEN (1)

Tom Yeager

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELGATES (2)

John Marchak
Andi Waller

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELGATES (4)

Pat Barton
Ted Meyers
Katie Renner
Dave Yeager

BIOS OF SAINT MARK'S VESTRY NOMINEES

Steve Brindza:



Steve Brindza has been a member of Saint Mark's since May 2007 and was received into the church by Bishop Breidenthal in October 2008. He is employed at OCLC in Dublin and is one of several librarians in the parish. Steve embraces the three tenets of Anglicanism: scripture, tradition and reason; and appreciates the Episcopal liturgy's focus on Christ's presence among us. He is working with Father Paul and other members of the website design team and in February will be attending a conference to learn how to use the new diocesan Web portal as a basis for Saint Mark's site redesign. He is looking forward to putting his coding skills to use to help the parish convey its message and ministry in Christ. Steve has been married for five years and lives with his wife and daughter in Hilliard.

Suzanne McConnell:



Suzanne grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and moved to Boston when she married her husband, Don. Her daughter Jessica was born in Boston. When Jessica was two years old, the McConnells moved to Houston, Texas, where their son Christopher was born. They lived in Houston for almost five years and then moved to Columbus, in December of 1985. The family became members of Saint Mark's and celebrated their first Christmas with our parish. Suzanne has been a teacher in the Upper Arlington Schools for 23 years, has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a Master's of Education from Ashland University. She teaches 6th grade math and reading (and sometimes English and science!). Her children are grown and now on their own—Jessica is finishing her MBA at Vanderbilt University and will return to Los Angeles when she is finished, and Chris lives here in Columbus. Suzanne was baptized at Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church in Lexington, Massachusetts, along with both her son and daughter. Both Jessica and Christopher were members of the Canterbury Choir and served as acolytes at Saint Mark's, and were confirmed here as well.

Deborah Morton:



Deborah has been a member of Saint Mark's since 1989 when she was eight years old. She was confirmed at Saint Mark's and was part of the youth group when she was in high school. She was a member of the Canterbury Choir for five years, and of the Saint Mark's Choir for a total of almost six years. Saint Mark's was a great support for her, spiritually and financially, when she was overseas as a missionary with Operation Mobilization and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Since coming back to Columbus, she has again come to realize how important the Saint Mark's family is in her life, and would like to give back to the church that has given her so much. As the only member of her family who has never been on Vestry at Saint Mark's, she is looking forward to the opportunity to serve in that capacity now. Currently, she is studying for her PhD in Linguistics at The Ohio State University.

Bill Reddington:



Bill has been a member of Saint Mark's since 1981 and has previously served as head usher for the church, taught Sunday School and was on Vestry from 1994-1999, working with Fellowship. He is single and an attorney at law. Bill recently retired from Franklin County, having worked nine years as an assistant Franklin County prosecuting attorney and the last 22 years as a magistrate in the Franklin County Probate Court, serving the last ten years as the chief magistrate. In 2001 he retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corp of the United States Army Reserve. The last five years of that service was as a military judge, trying courts martial at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Tom Yeager (Youth Warden):



Tom was born in Charleston, WV, baptized in St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston and later moved to Kanawha City with Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. When Tom was in fourth grade his family moved to Columbus and joined Saint Mark's. Since then he has been involved in Youth Group, traveled to Guatemala and New Orleans with Saint Mark's and served as an acolyte. Currently Tom is a sophomore at Hilliard-Davidson High School.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee

John Goettler, Jeff Porterfield, Ted Meyers and Park Zimpher

The Rev. Paul St. Germain

The Rev. Bruce Smith

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

Summary of Restricted Reserve Funds:

Trinity Guild	\$40,778
Additional Staff Fund	\$20,080
Music Funds	\$10,922
General Funds (including Flower and Altar Guilds)	\$5,878
Memorial Gifts	\$2,787
Youth Mission	\$84
Total Restricted Reserve Funds	\$80,529

Trinity Guild Fund: Established to provide reserve funds for major capital maintenance and repairs.

Additional Staff Fund: Establish to provide reserve funds to sustain our two-clergy staff.

Saint Mark's Endowment Fund: Established in 1978 to protect the long-term financial health of Saint Mark's Endowment Fund (the Fund) is managed by separately elected Trustees. Fund assets are invested in the Income Fund of the Consolidated Funds of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio. The fund's yearly investment income is transferred to Saint Mark's for use in the operating budget has needed. A gift of \$10,000 was deposited earlier this year and has been recorded as permanently restricted. In addition, memorial gifts totaling \$4151.70 have also been deposited in the account. At December 31, the Endowment Fund stood at \$244,270.01. —*Financial reports submitted by Dot Yeager*

SAINT MARK'S PARISH STATISTICS 2008

NUMBER OF SERVICES: Sundays 106 (2007 – 102)
 Weekdays 96 (2007 – 103)

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 12,344 (2007 – 12,284)

SPECIAL DAYS:	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
FIRST LENT:	196	174	276	198	196
EASTER:	370	433	472	489	474
PENTECOST:	252	166	190	200	126
CHRISTMAS:	462	508	527	455	419

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:

JANUARY – MAY:	200	(2007 – 169)	(Does <i>not</i> include Easter)
JUNE – AUGUST:	149	(2007 – 148)	
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER:	195	(2007 – 195)	(Does <i>not</i> include Christmas)
OVERALL AVERAGE:	196	(2007 – 171)	(Does <i>not</i> include Easter and Christmas)

BAPTISMS: 4

WEDDINGS: 4

CONFIRMATIONS: 2

NEW MEMBERS: 55

BURIALS: 10

TRANSFERS OUT (or moved to inactive): 42

TOTAL MEMBERS: approximately 730*

COMMUNICANTS: approximately 597*

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

SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

01/19/09

	Year-to-Date Through December 2008			Budget 2009
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
Receipts:				
Pledges/member contributions	\$ 497,787	\$ 505,000	\$ (7,213)	\$ 490,000
Endowment Fund income	11,209	11,038	171	10,000
Plate	7,844	8,500	(656)	7,700
Interest income	3,055	3,000	55	1,500
T Mobile lease revenue				9,600
Other	<u>23,980</u>	<u>19,245</u>	<u>4,735</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Total receipts	543,875	546,783	(2,908)	541,800
Add: Mission Trips contributions	13,157	-	13,157	-
Add: Non-recurring gift	10,000	-	10,000	-
Add: Transfers from Trinity/Music/Flower	<u>10,100</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,100</u>	<u>16,000</u>
Total receipts and other sources	<u>577,132</u>	<u>551,783</u>	<u>25,349</u>	<u>557,800</u>
Disbursements:				
Staff-ministry	180,525	179,620	(905)	196,051
Staff-music	81,876	83,002	1,126	85,329
Staff-office	40,058	38,047	(2,011)	37,360
Staff-payroll taxes and other	9,431	9,463	32	9,937
Administration	41,843	42,389	546	35,890
Stewardship	1,249	1,000	(249)	-
Facilities	89,850	89,144	(706)	88,700
Outreach	14,424	16,000	1,576	16,000
Mission Trips--expenditures	15,221	-	(15,221)	-
Diocesan Mission Share	96,354	96,354	-	91,893
Christian education & development:				
<u>Formation</u> Elementary ed.	317	950	633	475
Nursery care	435	750	315	750
VBS	1,276	750	(526)	375
Confirmation	-	350	350	175
Adult Education	223	1,800	1,577	1,000
Middle school ed.		500	500	500
Senior high youth	1,955	2,500	545	2,000
Equipment/other	<u>-</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Christian education/development	4,206	8,400	4,194	5,275
Fellowship/hospitality	1,613	2,000	387	1,600
Small groups	643	900	257	950
Music	7,972	5,556	(2,416)	5,000
Worship expense	<u>3,683</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>(2,383)</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Total disbursements	588,948	573,175	(15,773)	575,285
Add: Non-recurring expenses	11,869	11,869	-	-
Add: Flower/Music/Trinity Guilds	<u>10,139</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(5,139)</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total disbursements and other uses	<u>610,956</u>	<u>590,044</u>	<u>(20,912)</u>	<u>580,285</u>
Surplus/(deficit from operations)	(33,824)	(38,261)	4,437	(22,485)
Transfers from Additional Staff Fund	<u>34,000</u>	<u>39,000</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Receipts in excess of disbursements	<u>\$ 176</u>	<u>\$ 739</u>	<u>\$ (563)</u>	<u>\$ (2,485)</u>

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

“FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION”
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND SUMMARY—DECEMBER 31, 2008

INCOME

Pledges received	\$330522
TOTAL INCOME	\$330522

EXPENSES

Education Wing Phase	\$241048
Campus Phase	\$39815
Accessibility	\$10798
Miscellaneous	\$5721
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$297382

Total pledged over 3 year period	\$749660
Pledges received in year one	\$330522
Balance due on pledges	\$419138

DECEMBER 31, 2008—EXPENSE GROUP BREAKDOWN

ACCESSIBILITY

Deposit sound system	\$3023
Thomas auto door controls	\$7775
<u>Total accessibility</u>	<u>\$10798</u>

CAMPUS

Landscape	\$3599
Ramp, wall removal, sidewalks	\$17780
Underground utilities	\$18436
<u>Total campus</u>	<u>\$39815</u>

MISC. EXPENSES

Presentation material, brochures	\$3694
Moving piano, furniture	\$2027
<u>Total miscellaneous</u>	<u>\$5721</u>

EDUCATION

All other expenses	\$241048
<u>Total education</u>	<u>\$241048</u>

TOTAL ALL EXPENSES: \$297382

—Submitted by Rick Moore

SAINT MARK'S
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2009 PLEDGE REPORT

(A narrative report was published in the January EPISTLE.)

Submitted by the Rev. Bruce Smith

I. SUMMARY	Qty	-	-	-	Dollars	-	-	Average
1 Received for 2009	169				\$473,105			\$2,799.44
2 Not yet received	26				\$32,916			\$1,266.00
3 Not renewed	16				\$27,995			\$1,749.69

II. BREAKDOWN OF ESTIMATES OF GIVING (PLEDGES) FOR 2009								
A.	By Type of Pledge	Qty	%	Dollars	%	Average		
	1 New or Reinstated	21	12%	\$21,012	4%	\$1,000.57		
	2 Increases	59	35%	\$214,278	45%	\$3,631.83		
	3 Same as 2008	61	36%	\$166,228	35%	\$2,725.05		
	4 Decreases	28	17%	\$71,587	15%	\$2,556.68		
	5 Totals	169	100%	\$473,105	100%	\$2,799.44		
B.	By Dollar Amount	Qty	%	Dollars	%	Average		
	6 Over \$10,000	9	5%	\$142,040	30%	\$15,782.22		
	7 \$5,000 - \$9999	17	10%	\$104,520	22%	\$6,148.24		
	8 \$2500 - \$4999	32	19%	\$104,620	22%	\$3,269.38		
	9 \$1000 - \$2499	57	34%	\$93,938	20%	\$1,648.04		
	10 \$500 - \$999	35	21%	\$23,339	5%	\$666.83		
	11 \$52-\$499	19	11%	\$4,648	1%	\$244.63		
	12 Totals	169	100%	\$473,105	100%	\$2,799.44		

III. EIGHT YEAR ESTIMATE OF GIVING (PLEDGING) HISTORY							
	Year	Qty	Change	Dollars	Change	Average	
1	2009	169	(21)	\$473,105	(\$26,990)	\$2,799.44	
2	2008	190	16	\$500,095	\$28,726	\$2,632.08	
3	2007	174	6	\$471,369	\$39,734	\$2,709.02	
4	2006	168	0	\$431,635	\$8,316	\$2,569.26	
5	2005	168	(8)	\$423,319	(\$476)	\$2,519.76	
6	2004	176	(14)	\$423,795	(\$11,616)	\$2,407.93	
7	2003	190	(30)	\$435,411	(\$30,923)	\$2,291.64	
8	2002	220	NA	\$466,334	NA	\$2,119.70	

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT



2008 was an exciting and event filled year for Saint Mark's. There were so many activities and events around the parish that it would be impossible to name them all. I want to mention just a few of these because they inspired or moved me to see more clearly the love, care and blessings of God. Saint Mark's choirs and the special music programs, the Vestry retreat, lawn chair theologians program (the attendance was amazing!), Supper Club, the ministry fair, all the many ways we feed each other (with food and spiritually), the dedication of the Church School staff and the Vacation Bible School staff. For me one of the highlights of each Sunday is the joy and "activity level" that the children bring to the church service when they arrive from Sunday School. Sermons from Paul, Bruce and Joan are inspirational, educational and thought-provoking.

What has truly amazed me this year is the way the members of Saint Mark's stepped forward during the "From Generation to Generation" capital campaign. Major repairs had to be done. I was very anxious about how we were going to fund and accomplish the needed construction. Because of the hard work of many, and the generosity of all, we have replaced the south and west exterior walls of the Education Wing and are continuing to re-build and build Saint Mark's into a welcoming, safe, accessible, up-to-date facility that will allow us to continue programs into the future. Behind the scenes, the Implementation Committee has been making the vision of the "Generation to Generation" program happen.

There are many people for whom I thank God daily. I wish at this time to publicly thank the rector for his leadership and inspiration. I wish also to thank the 2008 Vestry. Many people have commented to me about my "wisdom or lack of it" for agreeing to be Senior Warden again. I will say here what I have said many times this year. It is an absolute joy to be part of the Vestry of Saint Mark's. The Vestry has outstanding, highly dedicated and caring people working hard to meet the needs of the members of Saint Mark's and beyond. The Vestry treats each other with dignity, care and respect. All this makes my role as senior warden very easy.

Thank you Paul, Bruce, Joan, the 2008 Vestry and all members of Saint Mark's for an incredible year. Thanks be to God.

Bill Silliman, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT



The steady drip, drip, drip could be seen and heard from the various roof leaks in the beginning of 2008. However, thanks to the countless and tireless efforts on the part of our building supervisor, Pat Iams, the roof problems have been taken care of and have dwindled away. After a highly successful capital campaign in June we were finally ready to address the physical plant repairs on the west and north wall of the education wing. Visioning and planning by many people, and the gift of Bill Ryan's time and talents got things rolling in late summer. The slant wall that hid part of our building came down with the enthusiastic hammer blows of many parishioners (and a little help from the contractors).

The new window walls on the west and north sides of the building have made an incredible difference. Light and airy have replaced dark and dank! Wiring upgrades have made us safe. Paint and carpeting make us comfortable, and the calligraphy prayers and Bible verses will remind us of God's love.

As you read this the education phase of the "From Generation to Generation" campaign is 95% complete. The Bishop's Library is about 75% complete and the Nursery will begin soon. What's to come in 2009?

Sound systems in the Nave and Parish Hall will enhance the service and programs for everyone. Work will begin on the office renovation to provide much needed working space for Jessie and volunteers. Spring weather will let us begin to complete outside signage, lighting and landscaping.

All three parts of the capital campaign play a critical role in making our physical plant a welcoming and safe place for all who come here. From the youngest to the oldest we want to be known as a parish that cares about people.

Thank you to all of you who realized the importance of these projects and have generously given of your time and talents.

Barbara Keyes, Junior Warden

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER'S 2008 REPORT



Canterbury Choir/Saint Mark's Choir:

Canterbury Choir, in its 2008-2009 season, had a total of thirteen members. 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 trips to art galleries, museums, garden centers, and, this year, its pilgrimage in April 2009 to Washington National Cathedral. As our autumn fundraiser, the boys and girls make and sell buckeyes, and every January "Super Bowl Subs." Two potluck dinners, fall and spring, offer fellowship with choir parents and the choirmaster. In 2008, the Saint Mark's 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.

Saint Mark's Music Series:

Our Saint Mark's Music Series, which was launched last year with great success, presented in recital organist Bruce Neswick, who is Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. This 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 others 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 Saint 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 Saint Mark's music program, my heartfelt appreciation.

—Gary L. Garber, *Director of Music*





ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM IN 2008

Committee Membership: Serving on the Adult Education Committee this past year were, Matt DeMatteo, Bob Graves, Stan Laughlin, Sylvia Moore, Bruce Smith+ and Gloria Wylie.

Sunday Morning Forums were held throughout the year from 9:00-9:45 a.m. Our focus each Sunday in 2008 was a discussion of the Gospel reading of the day.

In Search of Easter, a DVD Presentation & Discussion was held on Sunday, March 30, 2008, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Oratory. *"Two thousand years ago, the "impenetrable mystery" of the resurrection of Jesus shook a mighty empire, inspired a persecuted people and altered the course of world history. But, what do we really know about the event at the very heart of Christianity? Is it fact, myth or metaphor?"* From the National Geographic Channel.

Lawn Chair Theologians returned in July with three Tuesday evening sessions on *"Light in the Shadows:" The Life and Writings of C.S. Lewis* led by our Rector, Paul St. Germain. *"If style, wit and wisdom are prerequisites for the pearly gates than C.S. Lewis is among the angels."* Paul shared materials from his stay last summer in Lewis' Oxford home "The Kilns" and told about the work of the C.S. Lewis Foundation. C.S. "Jack" Lewis left us Narnia, the wonderful land of Aslan, the White Witch, of unicorns and dragons, high adventure and great joy. Now a Saint Mark's tradition, Lawn Chair Theologians meets in the backyards of parishioners (or living rooms if it's raining) of parishioners.

Summer Book Study – *The Political Teachings of Jesus* by Tod Lundberg, took place on Four Tuesday evenings in September. The seminar was facilitated by Bob Graves & Stan Laughlin.

"Welcome to the Episcopal Church," an overview of the traditions of the Episcopal Church, was led by our Rector, the Rev. Paul St. Germain, on the evening of Wednesday, September 10.

An Evening with Bishop Price – The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price, Jr., our Bishop Suffragan, shared his reflections on the Lambeth Conference held last summer in Canterbury, England on Thursday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Eldred Johnston Parish Hall. The Lambeth conference, a conference of Anglican Bishops from all over the world gathers in England every 10 years.

"Children of Abraham: An Exhibit" was held at Saint Mark's from Saturday evening, September 13 through Sunday afternoon, September 14. We began with an Open House from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Saturday where visitors could view the exhibit, and learn about the origins of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, and their holy texts, as well as common shared beliefs, and sacred spaces. The program continued on Sunday with a luncheon and panel discussion from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm during which we heard from representatives of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. About 125 people (from both within and outside of the parish) attended this event.

God's Mission in the World: The Millennium Development Goals was held on six Tuesday evenings in October and November from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and was facilitated by the Rev. Bruce Smith.

Advent Quiet Day *"Advent and the Prophetic Voice,"* A morning of prayer, study and reflection was held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the home of Bruce and Susan Smith. A continental breakfast was served in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Bruce Smith (*Associate Rector*)

FORMATION, CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORT

Elementary Education (ages 3 through 5th grade):

The children's Church School has undergone a transformation over the summer and fall of 2008, resulting in a new space and some new faces as well. The number of children attending has remained constant, with the loss of a couple of families and a couple of families joining the church. With the matching contribution from the Outreach committee, the children chose items to donate through Heifer international for a gift of \$423. The patience of all the kids and their families during the construction throughout the fall was rewarded with a beautiful new space, designed just for the kids of Saint Mark's and their educational program. Curriculum was consistent with 2007 during the spring of 2008, but in the fall, lessons were invented by volunteers with the space constraints and combined age groups in mind as all the kids met in the Oratory. The very first lessons of 2009 are taking place in the new space, and even though there are still a few pieces to go before the area works as smoothly as planned, it is exciting to have such a pleasant place for the kids to learn together. Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who have worked so hard for the children of Saint Mark's. —Katie Renner



Vacation Bible School:

Kathy Drobny coordinated VBS again for another very successful week of learning and fun. The numbers of participants continues to grow (21 in 2006, 30 in 2007, and 35 in 2008). There were 22 volunteers who worked hard to help run the show. One comment for improvement is a request for a microphone for use during gatherings with the entire group. The theme was "Power Lab" purchased from Group Publishing. Since the Group curriculum is so popular, this year's VBS will be purchased from them again and the chosen theme is "Crocodile Dock." The dates for the 2009 VBS are June 15th-June 19th with an open house on June 21st.

—Katie Renner

Christmas Pageant: Amy Keller coordinated a large group of children and parents to present a beautiful pageant. As always, with our dear little ones dressed-up and acting out this wondrous story, our hearts brim with joy during these precious moments amidst the bustle on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Amy Keller, Jodi Hess, Kathy Drobny and other parents who shepherded and directed kids; found, fixed and folded costumes; and made the pageant a happy time for everyone involved. —Katie Renner

Nursery: The Nursery was staffed by Deidre Kelleher (paid position) with a volunteer as her assistant. Most of the volunteers are high school students opting for "service hours" needed for high school requirements. There are a few moms that have been on the volunteer schedule as well. Attendance has been very low this year. It was determined that moving the nursery to a more visible and convenient location would encourage parents to try the nursery. Also, being more infant/toddler friendly with new toys and appropriate surroundings would make parents and children more comfortable. The nursery is in the process of being moved to the previous "Dorset Room". The highly anticipated transformation should be complete in March. New furniture, equipment and toys are being purchased. While clearing the previous nursery we discovered that some items were at least 30 years old. Also the older toys were potentially on the "dangerous toy list" containing old paint, etc. Everyone involved is excited about the new nursery opening and we plan to have a "grand opening" shower (with the Sunday school rooms) for the parish to celebrate our new and fabulous surroundings! —Park Zimpher



Youth Group:

This was another exciting year for the Saint Mark's Youth Group. Under the guidance of Dan Karl, Father Paul St. Germain and Deborah Morton, the high school youth group went New Orleans for a week in August for a mission trip. They also sponsored a lunch after a Sunday service to share the culture (fabulous food) and pictures of the hard work they did. It was impressive. In August, Dan Karl resigned the position of Youth Ministry Director as he took a teaching job in Florida. We were very grateful and blessed to name Brad and Crystal Essex as the new Youth Ministers. They have taken this on with great enthusiasm and we look forward to many great things for our youth in the future. In addition to the high school youth group, Brad and Crystal have started a middle school youth group. The kids are thrilled to be able to participate. —Park Zimpher

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

FACILITIES REPORT

What a fantastic time to serve on the Vestry as Facilities Coordinators! Because of the wisdom and generosity of the congregation, we are witnessing the transformation of our Sunday School/Youth Lounge/Choir Room from a utilitarian 1950's gathering place into a warm, comfortable, happy, useful stage for reaching out to our own members as well as newcomers! Bill Ryan has contributed his heart and soul to the project, and all of us are forever grateful.

On the mundane, everyday front, Facilities has a "Maintenance Game Plan" in place, which keeps us on target to protect and enhance your investment. We coordinate at least 30 vendors, always looking out for better prices and high quality work. Our kitchen has a new refrigerator/freezer, new ice maker and new coffee machine. Our budget is approximately \$89,000 (see attached budget), and we are supplemented at times by the ever valuable Trinity Fund.

We have been blessed by two fabulous member-volunteers, Mary Kirkey and Jill Hinton, who meet with Pat Iams once a month to brainstorm how to do an even better job. We call ourselves the "Maintenance Team," and we appreciate any suggestions you may bring to us. You, the members, are the eyes, ears, and ideas for us, so never hesitate to call any one of us.

Repairs are completed as quickly as possible, and, as you well know, the repairs often focus on the "dreaded leaks." We fear that the beauty of our architecture will always lend itself to roof/water problems, but we will keep our eyes on the sky, our mops on the floor, and our roofers at our beck and call.

We thank each and every one of you who volunteer to water the gardens, carry boxes, show up for clean-up days, and give us suggestions. Keep up your great work!

—*Pat Iams and Ted Meyers*

HOSPITALITY REPORT

The committee formed during the summer consists of the following: Anice Ellis (co-chair), Pat Kirkley (co-chair), Joyce Acton, Patti Blakey, Louise Riddle, Dianne Silliman and Gloria Wylie.

The following events were hosted by the committee:

- Easter breakfast for Choir between services
- Reception after Organ Recital
- Reception for Gary Garber's 25th Anniversary at Saint Mark's
- Five receptions for "From Generation to Generation" Capital Campaign
- Picnic after "Wall Bashing"
- Refreshments for Bishop Price's presentation of Lambeth Conference
- Reception and light lunch for "Children of Abraham" Exhibit
- Reception after All Saint's Choral Evensong
- Wassail reception after Advent Lessons and Carols

—*Anice Ellis and Pat Kirkley*



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY REPORT 2008 PROGRESS & GOALS

MINISTRY FAIR

The October 26 Ministry Fair drew a large crowd of participants. Twenty-seven small groups were represented, each with its own small booth. Many groups prepared one page brochures to distribute, and a composite brochure was developed.

SUPPORTING & PUBLICIZING SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

There is now a page devoted to small group activities in each month's EPISTLE. Activities are publicized, and there is often a picture of the contact person included with the blurb. Weekly bulletin inserts also provide information about events.

PRAYER

We want to raise up several ministries in the weekly Prayers of the People. Another of our goals was to work with Paul to guide each small group in the development of an opening prayer. The prayer would be shared with other groups so that we can all feel connected to each other and to the Saint Mark's Mission Statement. This is a goal we carry into the New Year.

SMALL GROUPS AS OF DECEMBER 2008

Thursday A.M. Communion/Breakfast and Homeless Shelter Ministry Group, First Tuesday Lunch Book Group, Fourth Monday Evening Book Group, Coffee House, Greeters' Ministry, Member Care, Memorial Reception Volunteers, Wedding Coordination Volunteers, Coffee Hour Guild, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer Chain Volunteers, Office Volunteers, Directory Volunteers, Lay Weeders and Planters, Supper Club, Men's Group, Bridge Club, Softball League, Golf League, Habitat for Humanity, St. John's Town Street Dinner

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The mission of the Saint Mark's Church Outreach Committee: As a caring community, we strive to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, ministering to one another both within and beyond the parish.

Similar to our work last year, the committee 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, Carol Brothers has been an active volunteer with Episcopal Retirement Homes for many years, and as such, Carol was kind enough to serve on the Outreach Committee.

Outreach Committee Goals, Budget and Objectives

The budget for this year was \$16,000. The total amount of grants made this past year totaled \$15,940.

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 Saint Mark's; and/or Saint 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 Saint 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.

SAINT MARK'S

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The Outreach Committee approved funding for the following **TIER ONE** organizations in 2008:

- Episcopal Community Services Foundation: ECSF is a diocesan-wide organization that funds small grants to churches throughout the Diocese. The committee granted \$1,000 to support ECSF.
- Episcopal Retirement Homes: Saint Mark's has enjoyed a long and close relationship with ERH over the years. The committee funded the amount of \$2,000 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. In addition, Outreach Committee members have allocated a budget of \$1,500 for the purchase of food and supplies in support of our outreach to prepare, serve and clean up after meals at St. John's Church.
- Habitat for Humanity: Chip Botti has reestablished Saint Mark's relationship with the Northwest Partnership. The house began later than normal this year. The committee approved funding of \$3,000 in support of Habitat for Humanity.
- Heifer Project International: The committee approved a grant of \$1,000 in support of the work of Heifer.

TIER TWO ORGANIZATIONS/COLLECTIONS:

The Outreach Committee and our church are most fortunate to have Rick and Sylvia 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 NNMAP.

In addition, Committee members have coordinated a series of special appeals, including: A great response for Tools for Schools and school supplies; Operation Christmas Child had another great response as did the Hat and Mitten Tree.

OUTREACH FUNDING FOR TIER THREE ORGANIZATIONS:

The Outreach Committee was pleased to fund other new initiatives. A group of Saint Mark's members have begun to purchase supplies in order to prepare 180 lunches consisting of a sandwich, fruit, a drink and a dessert for distribution at the Open Shelter. A grant of \$690 helped defray the cost of this program.

In addition, the Outreach Committee was pleased to offer to match the Saint Mark's Youth Groups fund-raising in support of their mission trip. The committee made a grant of \$1,000.

Finally, the committee approved funding for the following organizations:

Mid-Ohio Food Bank received \$2,500
Neighborhood Services received \$250

MEMBERS OF THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

Please extend your gratitude to the following members of the Outreach Committee for their time and leadership this past year: Chip Botti; Larry Burton, Co-Chair and Vestry representative; Carol Brothers, Rick Moore, Sally Rechner, Joy Sargent, and Rev. Joan Maynard, Deacon and Clergy representative to the Committee.

This report has been respectfully submitted by John Goettler, Vestry representative to the Committee.

“Whoever you are,
and wherever you are on the journey of the spirit,
the Episcopal Church welcomes you.”



SAINT MARK'S
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