



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Good morning.

As we gather today on the last Sunday before Lent, it seems appropriate to pause and reflect on where Saint Mark's has been in the past year, and to look ahead into the future.

This is a busy congregation. We are busy people. There have been more events in the last year than I can begin to recall — and the remarkable part is that the vast majority of these have not been generated by the clergy or staff—but by the people who call Saint Mark's their parish home.

Often these events have not only built our parish community, but served others beyond these walls. There has been a tremendous outpouring in support of the hungry and homeless in Columbus. As individuals we have assisted Episcopal Relief and Development (one of the finest of such organizations in the world) touch the lives of people in Haiti and around the globe. We have transformed the life of a single mother and her two children in Guatemala by giving them a clean and sustainable environment in which to live.

We are nurtured and inspired as we go about these tasks by a rich worship life, that blends together prayer and scripture, sacrament and music, in an environment where theologian Urban T. Holmes says "Anglicans can fall in love with God." On behalf of the entire congregation I would like to give thanks for all the ways in which the people of Saint Mark's embody Christ's ministry. From Outreach to Liturgy, Music and Christian Education; from Hospitality to the work of Saint Mark's Staff and Vestry. In times of anxiety in our world, of economic uncertainty and high unemployment, our presence and ministries are a reminder of God's compassion for all people. The church is an anchor amidst the storms of life, with one foot in the world—and one in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Saint Mark's "worldly foot" found itself planted at the beginning of 2009 in the midst of the one of the largest economic meltdowns in recent history. We responded last January by trimming costs, tightening belts, and blessed by the faith-filled and generous support of our members and friends. Thanks to all of us, the year ended on a positive note "in the black," as they say. A minor miracle perhaps; a tribute to the congregation's confidence in God's purposes, most definitely.

Now as we begin another new year, we do so in the face of some stark fiscal realities. The effects of the broader economy have indeed touched the lives of all of us—sometimes painfully. There are those in our community who through no fault of their own have had to decrease financial support of the parish. At the same time, there have been examples of extraordinary generosity—both in gifts of time and dedication to our common ministry, as well as an outpouring of increased financial support. The fact that we are moving into 2010 with a balanced budget is due in no small part to some incredibly gracious hearts.

At the same time it is my responsibility to inform the parish how we were able to achieve this balance in an environment where so many expenses—from utilities to health care—have increased in unprecedented proportion.

The first action we took was to freeze salaries. Saint Mark's has a dedicated and devoted staff, and not to be able to recognize their many efforts (often behind the scenes) for the well being of our parish has been a difficult one.

Secondly, we have made the deliberate decision to maintain the integrity of our budget process. By this I mean that we spend funds in accordance with the intention for which they are given. When we made a pledge to the operating budget, that is where it is spent. When we made a pledge to the Capital Campaign, it was spent on the campaign. This means that even as one part of our funding is running low (one "pot," you could say, is more empty) we will not be dipping into the fuller "pot" of our campaign funds.

We also did not stop addressing those needs Saint Mark's identified as part of the campaign. Today we enjoy a safer, brighter, more accessible facility that is more energy-efficient, and above all, supports our ministry in a 21st century world. It also increasingly serves as an evangelist to the hundreds and hundreds of people who pass through our doors each week between Sundays when you and I together for worship. This very deliberate decision was indeed the correct one, as pledges to the campaign remain strong and our facilities live into the vision the congregation had back in 2007.

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Thirdly, the budget is balanced this morning due to even more drastic cuts. The Finance Committee and Vestry have approved a budget as you will soon see that has reduced every program line item in half. That means in 2010 we will have half the resources available for our Sunday School, half for our Youth and Vacation Bible School, we will be giving half the number of grants through our Outreach Committee, and our Music Program will have half the allotment it had in 2009. I assure you that no one wanted to take these steps. Each of us has a program or programs that are especially dear to us at Saint Mark's. Each of us would have liked to have sliced the pie a little differently. But going into this budget meant that there were to be no "sacred cows" (perhaps I should say "golden calves"—to be a bit more scriptural) on the balance sheet.

Going forward on diminished means has caused a number of people to ask: "How did we get here?" "Do we really have to do this?" "Is it really all the economy?" The answer is that Saint Mark's has been building up to this moment for the last decade. We have a parish for many years that has been large enough to require two full-time clergy and a program staff. Yet in order to pay for this very real need, a special fund had to be created years ago called "The Additional Staff Fund." It was dipped into in time of need to balance the budget, and to allow for whatever staff position was vulnerable at the time to exist. While we have weaned away from using that fund in the last few years, the economic downturn has called upon us to completely deplete it in order to maintain our staff level this year. This "pot," if you will, is empty, and what has served us well over these years appears to be at an end.

I say "appears" because as the church, we are called to be disciples with faith and hope in God's future for our community—and I do NOT believe that God is calling us to slow down, do less, or decrease our ministry or mission. In fact, it has been stunning to see all that Saint Mark's has accomplished in Christ's name in 2009 with a smaller budget. Imagine what we could do together with the Holy Spirit if we were fully funded!

So it is with the urging of the Finance Committee and parish leadership that I issue the challenge to Saint Mark's to re-open gifts to the "Additional Staff Fund"—and replenish its resources to allow it to serve us providing security for our staff as it was designed to do those years ago. All us are called to give prayerful consideration to this opportunity, and if we are able, to make a contribution to help restore the stability of this fund. Gifts of every size will be gratefully appreciated and carefully applied. There is nothing that would give the Vestry greater joy than to restore funding to affected areas. It is my hope and prayer that through an improved economy and generous giving, that hope will become a reality.

The last challenge I would issue Saint Mark's is to remain focused on discipleship. It is very easy in a parish where so much is happening to remain in the usual circles, travel in a comfort zone, do familiar activities. Yet discipleship, if we are to be true to our Lord, is to move out of those comfortable areas: to be challenged, to grow the Kingdom of God. This may involve becoming more active with outreach, it may involve volunteering in the Parish Office, it may involve getting in the kitchen, or in the sacristy, or in the Sunday School classrooms—or out of those places as the case may be. It may involve seeing Christ within unexpected people. It may involve driving down to St. John's-Town Street or getting on a plane to Guatemala and have our lives touched forever.

My friends, discipleship offers us a peace and a hope within ourselves, and the prodding to move out of ourselves in new and challenging ways. If our faith is alive, we will be challenged in 2010. May we embrace the challenges ahead with compassion and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.



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 that things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him 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***

THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is hard to believe that I am half way through my 10th year as your Associate Rector, but it is true. I joined the staff of Saint Mark's upon ordination as a Transitional Deacon in June 2000. Ten years is a long time for an associate to serve one parish, although Paul St. Germain has the record, I think, of 14 years at St. George's, Dayton. (If I retire at 65 from Saint Mark's, I will hold the record!) This summer, Paul will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of his ordination, so we are both observing major milestones in our ministries.

Saint Mark's has become a very special community over the years, and I am so pleased that my wife, Susan, recently retired as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) has become an integral part of our congregation. As many of you know, Susan was baptized and confirmed in our diocese.

In the service of ordination of a priest, the bishop addresses the ordinands and tells them, "Now you are called to work as a pastor, as a priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church. (Prayer Book, p.531) I take that call very seriously and am reminded of it almost daily as I live out my ministry among you and with you.

As a **pastor**, I have guided couples in pre-marital counseling, visited and prayed with the sick and dying, sat with folks and listened as they shared matters weighing on their heart. As a **priest**, I have shared in the celebration of the sacraments with Paul (and Michael Ellis) on Sundays and Holy Days, at weddings and memorial services, at Friendship Village and the Forum at Knightsbridge as well as in private homes. As a **teacher**, I continue seek and offer adult formation opportunities designed to help all of us deepen our faith in the Lord, and I continue to lift up the theology of Christian Stewardship as a way of life. I am challenged. **Preaching** is a ministry I also take very seriously, and I confess it is a ministry that challenges me sometimes. Preaching incorporates all three of the calls to an ordained minister – pastor, priest and teacher. I have been honored over the years to be invited as a guest preacher in several churches in Central Ohio.

As mentioned above, we priests are called to take our share in the councils of the Church. As clergy, we are members of Diocesan Convention; we are not members of any particular congregation. And so, we engage with our fellow clergy and elected lay delegates at our diocesan convention held every year. I am now in my third and last year as a member of Diocesan Council, which serves as the "vestry" of the Diocese between conventions. As 1st Vice President, I work closely with Bishop Breidenthal (the President) and the Rev. John Johanssen (Canon to the Ordinary) in setting the agenda for each meeting and overseeing the work of the Council. I also serve as a member of the Affirmative Aging Commission of our Diocese and serve as a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee. Outside of the ministry of the diocese, but related to it, I serve as Chair of the Central Ohio Advisory Board of Episcopal Retirement Homes, Inc. (ERH) which provides affordable housing and continuing care retirement communities in our Diocese. ERH has been working for several years in trying to provide (own or manage) affordable housing in central Ohio, but that is a long complicated process and our efforts have not yet paid off, which has been frustrating to say the least.

As Paul and I continue to work closely together, we become increasingly appreciative of our working relationship. We are different in many ways, but we complement each other very well! (He likes C.S. Lewis; I like Frederick Buechner, and we both like a particular ocean liner!). We both share a deep love and commitment to Christ and to the people of Saint Mark's.

I also thank God for so many that we share ministry with: Gary Garber & Michael Murray; our deacons, Joan Maynard and Mike Wernick; our vergers, especially our Head Verger Don McConnell and Head Verger Emeritus, Larry German (Happy 90th Birthday, Larry!); our Campus Manager, Bill Ryan, and our Office Manager, Jessica Ellis.

Shalom,



The Rev. Bruce Smith
Associate Rector

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

2010 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. APPOINTMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING RECORDING SECRETARY
3. APPROVAL OF 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES PG. 6
4. INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT WARDENS, VESTRY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES
5. RECOGNITION
 - OUTGOING VESTRY MEMBERS
 - RENEWED APPOINTMENTS OF TREASURER AND CLERK
6. PRESENTATION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT PGS. 7 & 8
7. ELECTION
 - SENIOR WARDEN
 - JUNIOR WARDEN
 - YOUTH WARDEN
 - VESTRY MEMBERS
 - CONVENTION DELEGATES
8. 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT PG. 9
9. PRESENTATION OF 2010 BUDGET PGS. 10 & 11
10. SENIOR WARDEN'S ADDRESS
11. "FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION" CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT PG. 12
12. SAINT MARK'S OUTREACH HONOREES
13. FRIENDS OF LA LABOR REPORT
14. INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH
15. INTRODUCTION OF SAINT MARK'S SUPPORT STAFF
16. DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH
17. BENEDICTION

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

The 2009 Annual Meeting was held in the Parish Hall following the 10 a.m. worship service. The meeting was called to order by the Rector, The Rev. K. Paul St. Germain, at 11:25 a.m. A booklet containing the 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.

MINUTES of the 2008 meeting were distributed. Upon motion, duly seconded and passed, the minutes were approved as presented.

Father Paul introduced the Vestry members as follows:

Senior Warden – Bill Silliman
Junior Warden – Barbara Keyes
Youth Warden – Katie Hyre
Retiring Vestry – John Goettler, Jeff Porterfield, Ted Meyers, and Park Zimpher
Continuing Vestry – Larry Burton, Lindsay Graves, Pat Kirkley, John Marchack, Anice Ellis, Pat Iams, Katie Renner, and Marilyn Smith

Father Paul thanked for their service the Wardens, Vestry, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Youth Ministers, and everyone else who works hard to keep Saint Mark's running smoothly.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee was made up of outgoing Vestry members. In addition, the Wardens and Clergy served as ex-officio members. The Nominating Committee used self-nominations and nominations from the Parish to develop the following slate of candidates:

Youth Warden – Tom Yeager
Vestry (three-year terms) – Steve Brindza, Suzanne McConnell, Deborah Morton, and Bill Reddington
Diocesan Convention Delegates – John Marchak, and Andi Waller
Diocesan Convention Alternates – Dave Yeager, Pat Barton, Ted Meyers, and Katie Renner

There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and by motion, seconded and passed, the nominees were elected by acclamation.

2007 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2008 BUDGET – Dot Yeager presented the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2008, and the budget for 2009. She began her report by acknowledging and thanking the volunteers who help with the financial records and bookkeeping: Rick Moore, Gloria Wylie, Virgine Heckman, and Dale Hartney. Dot also acknowledged the work of the Finance Committee members: Phil Glandon, Don McConnell, Brett Alexander, and Rick Moore.

As required by the Diocese, Saint Mark's undergoes an annual audit of its financial and accounting practices and statements. Bob Gillette, an independent CPA, has been engaged to conduct the audit for 2008.

For 2008, Saint Mark's brought in \$577,000 in income. About 90% of Saint Mark's revenue comes from parish pledges. Additional income came from rent received from the Redding Road house and income from the Endowment Fund. Facility expenses were supported through the Trinity Guild fund. Total disbursements were \$588,000, leaving a short fall of \$34,000. The balance was transferred from the Additional Staff Fund, leaving \$20,000 in the Additional Staff Fund to carry forward into 2009.

The 2009 budget was approved by Vestry at the January meeting. Approximately 57% of Saint Mark's budget goes toward salaries and benefits, 20% is spent on Mission Share (paid to the Diocese) and outreach, and 15% of the budget goes toward facilities, including utilities. An additional source of income for 2009 is anticipated to be the rent for allowing T-Mobile access to our bell tower. Even though Saint Mark's was blessed to raise more than the goal of the "From Generation to Generation" Capital Campaign, the 2009 operating budget is projected to have a shortfall of \$22,000. It is anticipated that \$20,000 of the shortfall will be made up from the Additional Staff Fund, leaving the Additional Staff Fund balance at zero. Saint Mark's is carefully scrutinizing the operating budget in an effort to be good stewards of the parish finances, and Dot anticipates checking in frequently with the Finance Committee as the year plays out.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the financial and budget report be accepted as presented.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Bill Silliman reported on the highlights of 2008, including the inspiring music programs, the great attendance at Lawn Chair Theologians, the success of the Ministry Fair, and the number of children and adults touched by Vacation Bible School.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Associate Rector, The Rev. Bruce Smith, at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Hyre

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

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

CURRENT SAINT MARK'S VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN: Bill Silliman

JUNIOR WARDEN: Barb Keyes

YOUTH WARDEN: Tom Yeager

CLASS OF 2010

Larry Burton
Lindsay Graves
Pat Kirkley
John Marchak

CLASS OF 2011

Anice Ellis
Pat Iams
Katie Renner
Marilyn Smith

CLASS OF 2012

Steve Brindza
Suzanne McConnell
Deborah Morton
Bill Reddington

TO BE ELECTED AT THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING:

SENIOR WARDEN

Barb Keyes

JUNIOR WARDEN

Phil Glandon

VESTRY CLASS OF 2013 (4)

Justin Griest
Ted Keller
Dianne Silliman
Darlene Sullivan

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELGATES (2)

Dave Yeager
Rachael Shumate

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ALTERNATES (4)

Roberta Morton
Karen Swartz

BIOS OF SAINT MARK'S VESTRY NOMINEES

Barb Keyes, Senior Warden Nominee



"I am a cradle Episcopalian and over the years I've been a member of Episcopal churches all over the country. I arrived at Saint Mark's in 1981 and quickly found a wonderful church family here. I was in the choir for 20+ years and while I was singing with Gary, met my wonderful husband Jim. Gary is a terrific matchmaker! Through the years I have served on Vestry, been a member of the Altar Guild and am just finishing two years as Junior Warden. I enjoy helping in all aspects of our parish life. Our friends here at Saint Mark's are truly like our extended family."

Phil Glandon, Junior Warden Nominee



"An Episcopalian for all of my life, I first attended church at St. Stephen's on the OSU campus. My family moved to Upper Arlington and joined Saint Mark's in 1962 when I was 10 and I have attended Saint Mark's ever since. I have known every rector of Saint Mark's. I served as an acolyte for Eldred Johnston. My father, Jack Glandon was a former Vestry member, Senior Warden, Chairman of the Endowment Committee, and Search Committee chairman. I have served the church as an usher for at least 20 years. I was Saint Mark's Treasurer for four or five years in the early 90's and have also served two five-year terms on the endowment committee. I served on the Vestry from Feb. 2004 until Feb. 2007 and co-chaired our most recent search committee with Pat Iams in 2006 & 2007. Lynn and I have two adult children. PJ and his wife Grey, and our granddaughter Sala live in Nashville, TN. PJ is an Economics instructor working on his PhD at Vanderbilt University. Our youngest son, Kyle, lives in Chicago with his wife Lacey and is an Architect with the DLR Group."

Justin Griest, Vestry Nominee (Stewardship)



Justin started attending Saint Mark's in January of 2005 as a member of Saint Mark's Choir. He was received into the church by Bishop Price in 2007. Along with being an active member of the choir, Justin has been a St. John's-Town Street Dinner volunteer and serves as a member of the Stewardship Committee. Born and raised in Massillon, Ohio, Justin came to Columbus in 2000 to pursue studies at Capital University. Upon completion of a Bachelor's degree in Radio/TV/Film & Communication, Justin began his professional career at The Ohio State University as an undergraduate admission counselor. Justin is single and currently works in student admission and recruitment within The Ohio State University College of Optometry. In his spare time, Justin enjoys sporting events, music, travel, time with friends, and visiting his mother and sister in northeast Ohio.

Ted Keller, Vestry Nominee (Communication)



"I believe I'm what you call a 'cradle Episcopalian.' My family moved around the country a bunch through the 70's and 80's and I was a member of Episcopal churches in Cincinnati, Miami, Chicago, Boston, and St. Louis. My mother and grandmother were a strong influence on my spiritual upbringing. I settled in Columbus after graduating from Denison University and was a member of St. John's, Worthington. My wife, Amy, and I started attending Saint Mark's in 1997. We have three children: daughter Casey (9) and sons Ben (6) and Chris (1). I have assisted Amy in Godly Play along with helping to staff the Nursery. I look forward to serving the church as a member of the Vestry."

Dianne Silliman, Vestry Nominee (Hospitality)



"I was first introduced to the Episcopal Church in college when I began attending with Bill and his family. We were married in Christ Church, Springfield, Ohio. We began attending Saint Mark's in 1980 after our first child was born (yikes, he'll be 30 in April!). Over the years, I've done a variety of things, but more recently I've served two terms on Vestry and was on the last Search Committee. Currently I am serving on Altar Guild and Coffee Guild as well as being a Chalice Bearer."

Darlene Sullivan, Vestry Nominee (Small Groups)



Darlene grew up in an Evangelical United Brethren church in West Virginia, led by a female pastor, who was also her first piano teacher. (She couldn't understand all the hoopla the Episcopalians were making over whether women should be permitted to become ordained priests.) Darlene was later confirmed at Church of the Good Shepherd in Charleston, WV. She and her late husband, a cradle Southern Baptist, were married there. We moved to Columbus in 1990 and began attending Saint Mark's soon thereafter. Darlene serves on the Altar Guild and is an Usher. Her son, Bryce, was confirmed and baptized at Saint Mark's, and serves as an Usher and a Verger. Darlene is employed at Chase Home Finance, LLC (JPMorgan Chase). Prior to her 20 years in the mortgage banking world, she was a draftsman for several civil engineering firms. She graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee

Bill Silliman, Barb Keyes, Larry Burton, Lindsay Graves, Pat Kirkley, John Marchak

The Rev. Paul St. Germain

The Rev. Bruce Smith

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

SUBMITTED BY DOT YEAGER, TREASURER

2010 Saint Mark's Operating Budget

The attached 2010 budget has been approved after a thorough review of each revenue and expenditure line item. The following notes provide the rationale for the budget.

Unrestricted gift.

In December, Saint Mark's received an unrestricted gift in the amount of \$10,787. The Finance Committee recommended and the Vestry approved this amount be deposited in the Staff Support Reserve Fund. The fund name has been changed from the "Additional Staff" Fund to better describe the purpose of the fund.

Overall.

The budget is at a "bare bones" level. After reimbursements from the Staff Support Reserve Fund and the Trinity, Flower and Altar Guilds, there is a remaining gap of about \$3,000. Total operating revenues are \$538,000, compared to expenditures of \$574,000 for a gap of \$36,000.

Benefit costs have increased, but staff salaries are at the same level as last year. While significant savings are expected from discontinuing natural gas service through Direct Energy, \$11,000 in reimbursement from the Trinity Guild, for facilities repairs, is needed.

The Staff Support Reserve Fund balance, after the deposit of the unrestricted gift mentioned above, is projected to be \$17,303. This reflects the deposit of an unrestricted gift in 2009 of \$5,516, and the final amount needed for 2009.

Saint Mark's has no long term debt or loans supporting operations. Please see the Capital Campaign report for a discussion of the payment plan for the construction loan.

Pledges/member contributions.

Based on 155 pledges received to date totaling \$462,957, which is 2% lower than the amount pledged last year at this time. Accordingly, member contributions have been estimated at \$490,000.

Bell Tower revenue.

\$5,000 has been estimated for Bell Tower revenue. Negotiations are underway with a wireless company.

Pages 10 and 11 of this report provide details of the 2010 budget.

Saint Mark's Endowment Fund.

Established in 1978, to protect the long-term financial health of Saint Mark's, the 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 as needed. Memorial gifts of \$2,797.69 have been deposited in the account. At December 31, the Endowment Fund stood at \$245,492.71.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church							01/24/2010
Schedule of Receipts and Disbursements							
				2009	2009	2010	
				Budget	Actual	Budget	
Receipts:							
Pledges/member contributions				\$ 490,000	\$ 495,640	490,000	
Endowment Fund income				10,000	10,423	10,400	
Plate				7,700	6,935	7,000	
Interest income				1,500	678	400	
Bell Tower income				9,600	1,200	5,000	
Visitor receipts				3,250	3,873	3,900	
Non pledge receipts				10,000	10,000	10,000	
Special Purpose Offerings (Easter, Christmas)				2,500	2,549	2,500	
Outside Groups				3,250	3,821	4,000	
Redding Road lease				3,000	3,000	3,000	
Other				1,000	2,033	2,000	
Total operating receipts				541,800	540,152	538,200	
Unrestricted gift				-	5,516	-	
Mission donations/grants				-	4,100	-	
Stephen's Ministry				-	4,000	-	
Total operating and non-recurring receipts				541,800	553,768	538,200	
Disbursements:							
Staff salaries, health insurance, benefits, other:							
Ministry (clergy and youth ministers)				196,051	187,946	200,263	
Music				85,329	85,060	86,218	
Office manager				37,360	38,230	39,582	
Staff-payroll taxes and other				9,937	10,622	10,377	
Administration (insurance, copier, postage, audit fees, etc.)				35,890	38,483	35,983	
Stewardship				-	409	-	
Facilities				88,700	93,682	81,500	
Outreach				16,000	10,524	8,000	
Diocesan Mission Share				91,893	91,893	98,141	
Christian education: Elementary ed.				475	-	300	
Nursery care				750	195	800	
VBS				375	788	570	
Confirmation				175	-		
Youth group				2,500	1,249	1,250	
Adult Education				1,000	1,156	500	
Total Christian education/development				5,275	3,388	3,420	
Fellowship/hospitality				1,600	1,994	1,600	
Small groups				950	465	950	
Music				5,000	5,342	2,500	
Flower Guild expenses				3,500	3,282	3,300	
Altar Guild expenses				1,500	1,166	1,100	
Worship expense				1,300	998	1,000	
Total operating disbursements				580,285	573,484	573,934	

	2009	2009	2010
	Budget	Actual	Budget
Non-recurring expenses:			
Diocesan mission grant/other mission expenses	-	6,525	-
Stephen's Ministry	-	4,514	-
Funeral Reception expenses	-	290	-
Other non-recurring expenses	-	2,561	-
Total operating and non-recurring disbursements	580,285	587,374	573,934
Surplus/(deficit from operations)	(38,485)	(33,606)	(35,734)
Add: Transfer from Staff Support Reserve Fund	20,000	19,090	17,303
Reimbursements: Trinity Guild	11,000	11,000	11,000
Flower Guild	3,500	3,282	3,300
Altar Guild	1,000	1,166	1,100
Funeral Reception Fund		290	
Reimbursements for prior year costs		4,801	
Less: Transfer to Staff Support Reserve Fund	-	(5,516)	-
Receipts in excess of disbursements	<u>\$ (2,985)</u>	<u>\$ 507</u>	<u>\$ (3,031)</u>

Summary of Restricted Reserves:

Restricted Reserves:

Staff Support Reserve Fund	\$17,304
Trinity Guild	\$12,347
Special Music	\$ 5,185
Canterbury Choir Scholarship	\$ 3,499
Women's Service Ministry	\$ 2,145
Youth Mission	\$ 1,458
Funeral Receptions	\$ 1,388
Flower Guild	\$ 1,262
Memorial Garden	\$ 868
Memorial Gifts	\$ 754
Altar Guild	\$ 562
Canterbury Choir	\$ 73

Staff Support Reserve Fund:

Established to provide stability in staffing levels needed to sustain church operations

Trinity Guild:

Provides for major capital maintenance and repairs

Senior Warden's Report



Typically the senior warden's report covers events, issues and accomplishments from the past year. Going back in time, The Rev. Vicki Smith asked me to be Junior Warden after a ten o'clock service a little over four years ago. Then she announced that she was moving to North Carolina.

Since that time, a lot has happened at Saint Mark's that I have had some role in. I have the privilege of serving as Junior Warden along with Ellen Berndt as Senior Warden. During that time, a search committee was formed under the direction of Pat Iams and Phil Glandon. I had the honor of heading up a sub-committee to call an interim rector. I firmly believe that Saint Mark's was truly blessed to have The Rev. Philip College with us as interim. Philip was instrumental in pushing me toward heading up, along with Dave Yeager, the Greeters Committee. This was something that I was never quite comfortable with before, but have found to be a fun and truly helpful ministry. The other issue that Philip addressed that had a profound effect on Saint Mark's was the opening up of all groups/ministries to everyone. He was very passionate in insisting that there were no special "clubs" at Saint Mark's. Membership in all groups was open to everyone.

With the Search Committee's recommendations, Ellen Berndt and I called The Rev. Paul St. Germain. What a joy it has been working with Paul over the past two and a half years. During this time, the *From Generation to Generation* Capital Campaign began. I was truly amazed at the generosity of everyone. Special thanks go to Ellen Berndt, Chip Botti, Larry German and Virgene Heckman for the incredible fundraising efforts. As a result of these efforts, Saint Mark's campus is not only more beautiful than it has ever been but we have wonderfully useful and technologically up-to-date meeting spaces. I am particularly thrilled with the nursery, the classrooms and the closed circuit televisions. Paul has vision, good taste (in furnishings and food), and has led the Saint Mark's staff along a path that we can all be proud.

I can't possibly thank everyone enough for all the members of Vestry, committees and groups that have made my job easier over the past four years. Special thanks go to The Rev. Bruce Smith, Joan Maynard, Michael Ellis, Mike Wernick, Gary Garber, Michael Murray, Barb Keyes, Bill Ryan, Dot Yeager, Dave Yeager and Pat Iams. There are many more I should thank but I am limited on space.

Many times over the past four years people have made comments to me about "won't I be glad when my term as Warden will be over." Nothing is further from the truth. I have thoroughly enjoyed my terms as Junior and Senior Warden. There have been so many exciting things happening. The energy at Saint Mark's is a wonderful thing to experience. My faith has grown through this experience, and I sincerely hope that others will gladly accept leadership roles at Saint Mark's. I am very confident in Barb Keyes as she moves in the role of Senior Warden. She has incredible skills and has had a major leadership role in many capacities around Saint Mark's. Most recently, in addition to being Junior Warden, she has been on the implementation committee of the *From Generation to Generation* campaign. Thank you to everyone for your support over the past four years.

—Bill Silliman

Junior Warden's Report



It has been my pleasure to be your Junior Warden for the past two years. It has been a time of growth and change in many areas. We have much to be thankful for, thanks to the generosity and farsightedness of our congregation with the *From Generation to Generation* campaign.

The rotting west and south walls of the Education Wing have been replaced and the old mildewed, moldy and asbestos materials have been removed. This alone has made our Education Wing a safer environment for all who use these spaces. Carpeting on floors has made walking safer and quieter! Covering the exposed cement block walls and the use of energy-saving recessed lighting make the rooms and hallways bright and cheerful. A new Vesting Room gives all service participants a place to robe and prepare for service receiving last minute instructions and prayers before the service begins. Our new Bishops' Library will enable small groups to gather in an elegant environment. This space also houses our Saint Mark's Library, from which anyone may check out materials. Our brides especially enjoy the large mirror as they dress!

In the Parish Hall kiosks have been installed where each ministry may post information and have sign up space for their events. A small platform stage gives speakers just enough lift so that everyone may see them as they present. The sound and video system give us the capability to present information in a clear and visual way so that everyone can hear and see!

The font has been placed on a raised platform and shines through our new glass doors. Lighting and signage make it easier to find your way around Saint Mark's both inside and out!

Our new nursery has been a huge improvement for families with little ones. Staffed with caring people, it is a bright and warm environment for our youngest members or guests.

I could go on in much more detail about all the small things that you might not notice on first glance but that will make using our spaces so much more friendly and enjoyable. Thanks to Bill Ryan who has managed this construction program, our money has stretched to include everything that was promised and more. What treasure and talent this man has given us these past two years!

The physical changes your generosity has made possible have now enabled us to turn our attention to programs and worship in a beautiful, safe and healthy space. I look forward to using all our spaces in doing God's work here at Saint Mark's.

—Barb Keyes

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUMMARY, DECEMBER 31, 2009

RICK MOORE, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TREASURER

RECEIPTS

PLEDGES RECEIVED	
2008	\$330,522
2009	\$209,927
TOTAL PLEDGE INCOME	\$540,449

CONSTRUCTION LOAN	\$200,000
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$740,449
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DISBURSEMENTS

Education Wing Phase	\$395,568
Campus Phase	\$183,561
Accessibility	\$61,954
Miscellaneous	\$10,946
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES	\$652,029

LOAN REPAYMENT	\$25,000
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$677,029
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Total pledged over 3-year period	\$741,361
Pledges payments received	\$540,449

BALANCE DUE ON PLEDGES	\$200,912
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BALANCE DUE ON CONSTRUCTION LOAN	\$175,000
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SAINT MARK'S PARISH STATISTICS 2009

NUMBER OF SERVICES: Sundays 102 (2008 – 106)
 Weekdays 96 (2008 – 96)

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 13,561 (2008 – 12,344)

SPECIAL DAYS:	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
FIRST LENT:	261	196	174	276	198
EASTER:	388	370	433	472	489
PENTECOST:	183	252	166	190	200
CHRISTMAS:	468	462	508	527	455

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:

JANUARY – MAY:	189	(2008 – 200)	(Does <i>not</i> include Easter)
JUNE – AUGUST:	140	(2008 – 149)	
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER:	201	(2008 – 195)	(Does <i>not</i> include Christmas)
OVERALL AVERAGE:	177	(2008 – 197)	(Does <i>not</i> include Easter and Christmas)

BAPTISMS: 9
 NEW MEMBERS: 44

WEDDINGS: 4
 BURIALS: 8

CONFIRMATIONS: 0
 TRANSFERS OUT (or moved to inactive): 45

TOTAL MEMBERS: approximately 724*

COMMUNICANTS: approximately 550*

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

SAINT MARK'S MUSIC YEAR-IN-REVIEW

GARY L. GARBER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Canterbury Choir/Saint Mark's Choir

Canterbury Choir, in its 2009-2010 season, had a total of eleven members. We began our fall season with Choir Orientation (Camp) on Labor Day weekend and ended the season with a pilgrimage to the Washington National Cathedral April 24-26. As in years past, the Choir did its great walk from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial. Saturday the 24th was the Feast of Saint Mark, and this fact provided the theme of the day. The Rev. Bruce Stuart, our tour guide, led a tour of the National Gallery of Art showing us artifacts having to do with the life of Saint Mark. The afternoon was spent enjoying the National Cathedral, and our visit ended with a worship service in the Gazebo of the Bishop's Garden. As always dinner was pizza – this time followed by making ice cream sundaes. The next day, we were all impressed by worship at the 11 a.m. service at the cathedral. This trip was spiritually rewarding and fun, made the more so by the presence and participation of our rector, Paul St. Germain.

For the Choir's autumn fund-raiser, the boys and girls again made and sold buckeyes. In January each year they make and sell "Super Bowl Subs." The proceeds support the Canterbury Choir Fund. Two potluck dinners, fall and spring, offered fellowship with choir parents and the Director of Music.

Saint Mark's Choir leads worship at the 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, September through Trinity Sunday. Members represent a wide range of abilities, from volunteer to professional. Young adults (from high school age onward) are welcome. The Choir presently has twenty-three members. In 2009, Saint Mark's Choir presented three choral evensongs and Advent Lessons and Carols and 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 recitals by the Cosmos Trio chamber ensemble, by organist Kevin Jones, who is the director of music at Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT, and by organist Bruce Neswick, who is the director of music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. The Saint Mark's Music 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. It is supported in part by contributions, which are always welcome. These contributions also help to support the Saint Mark's Brass Quintet, which for many years has played for us on Easter Sunday mornings.

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.

ADULT FORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ADULT FORMATION PROGRAM IN 2009

You'll notice that title of this report uses the word "formation," a word being used more and more in our Diocese. Formation is a life long process as is our journey in faith as followers of Jesus Christ. The purpose of our adult formation programs is to provide the people of Saint Mark's with tools that will help all of us grow in faith and hope and love, so that we more fully live out our Baptismal Covenant which we will renew together in just a few short weeks at the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening, April 3rd.

So, Adult Formation goes way beyond academic study, although that is certainly a part of our nurture in the faith.

Central to our lives as Christians is the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments. Even though this collection of books was written long ago and far away, God still speaks to us through the Bible. We hear four passages from scripture read every Sunday—two from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and two from the New Testament. The sermon is a reflection on one or more of these texts, and provides a connection between our lives today and the Word of God as it came to those who wrote those ancient scrolls. But, we need more, I think, and that is why regular Bible Study is offered throughout the week at Saint Mark's. The **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** meets at 9 a.m. and we are studying the Gospel According to Luke. The **Sunday Morning Forum** meets at 9 a.m. throughout the year and for quite a while now we have been studying the Gospel passage read in that morning's services.

The **Men's Prayer and Study Group** meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We spend our time in prayer and Bible Study, and in sharing with each other how God has been at work in our lives since we last met.

The **C.S. Lewis Book Reading Group** led by our Rector, Paul St. Germain, began meeting last year on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

The **Lenten School**, sponsored by the churches of the Columbus Deanery of our Diocese, met on four Tuesday evenings in Lent at St. John's, Worthington. We gathered for Holy Eucharist, fellowship and then one of the several seminars that were offered. Lenten School 2010 begins next month and includes seminars led by the Rev. Michael Ellis and the Rev. Dr. Susan Warrener Smith, both from Saint Mark's. Information is available in the Parish Hall.

Our **Advent Quiet Day** met at Bruce and Susan Smith's house just before Christmas. Our focus for reflection was on the *Magnificat*, the Song of Mary from the Gospel According to Luke. We not only reflected on the text and its context, but we listened to two choral versions of *Magnificat*, one by J.S. Bach and one by the contemporary composer, John Rutter.

Last spring we offered for the first time a two night **Holy Week Retreat** held at Procter Conference Center. The retreat began on Palm Sunday evening and ended after breakfast on Tuesday in Holy Week. We spent our time in worship, in study (using a book from the Kerygma Program) and in fellowship. (This year's retreat will be held from March 28-30 at Procter.)

The **Lawn Chair Theologians** program has been a popular program at Saint Mark's for almost a decade and meets on three weeknight evenings in the backyards of parishioners. This year, Dr. Greg Hitzhusen led us through a biblical understanding of the stewardship of God's creation. Dr. Hitzhusen has a B.S. in ecology from Cornell University, a M.Div. concentrating in ecotheology from Yale Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in faith-based environmental education (Cornell).

Those were some of the highlights of our Adult Formation program at Saint Mark's in 2009. And we will continue to provide numerous and varied offerings designed to help each of us deepen our relationship with God in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Bruce Smith
Associate Rector

FORMATION, CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORT

SUBMITTED BY KATIE RENNER, FORMATION CO-CHAIR

Elementary education (ages 3 through 5th grade)

Children's Church School is enjoying the clean, safe, beautiful space created by the generous donations of Saint Mark's parishioners to the "From Generation to Generation" Capital Campaign of 2008. Preschoolers through second graders in Godly Play enjoy separate worship and play spaces and the older kids enjoy a bigger kid curriculum (*The Lord's Prayer* for 3rd through 5th grade) in their own space. Junior high school students meet for Journey to Adulthood curriculum in the comfortable youth lounge on the second floor. Climate control, storage space with a copier, windows that open, and big whiteboards are among the improvements that facilitate a great learning environment. The Education Wing's big screen monitor shows the service, allowing teachers to better target the appropriate time to minimize disruption while bringing students to their families in "big church" – and the kids can often spot their loved ones on the screen and know right where to go to find them.

A dedicated group of volunteers provides familiar faces to the students each week. Amy Keller, Elizabeth Anstaedt, and Katie Renner share the teaching of Godly Play and Park Zimpher teaches the third through fifth graders. Kathy Drobny and Father Paul have worked to initiate a new program for junior high school students, who had not had a formation program for many years. Kathy leads our fun-loving group of sixth and seventh graders on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Journey to Adulthood curriculum.

New volunteers are welcome in any aspect of Sunday School. More hands make lighter work and it's fun! Please contact Katie Renner (krenner@columbus.rr.com or 481-0233) if you would like to offer any of your time. No large commitments are required and it is always a rewarding experience.

Vacation Bible School

We are tremendously grateful to Kathy Drobny for her commitment again this year in coordinating VBS. It is one of the most rewarding weeks of the summer. The numbers of participants continues to grow and Kathy is planning for 40 students this year. This is nearly double the number from just four years ago. Many, many thanks to the 22+ volunteers who make it so successful! Last summer we had 38 kids participating and the theme was "Crocodile Dock," purchased from Group Publishing. The Group curriculum is full of energy, easy to follow, and easy to adapt to our church, so this year's VBS will be purchased from them again and the chosen theme is "High Seas Expedition." The cost to families remains \$20 for the first child, \$15 for the second and no more than \$40 for any family. This way, if a family has more than three children, they do not end up having to pay more than \$40. The money we charge offsets what we spend to have a fun week at VBS. The dates for the 2010 VBS are June 14 to 18 with an open house on Sunday, June 20. Please contact Kathy Drobny (kdrobny@att.net) if you would like to participate or volunteer.

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant was beautiful this year with special additions from the Canterbury Choir. Thank you, Amy Keller, for organizing a big event so well that it looked easy! It took a great deal of planning and legwork to make the successful evening that it was. We are also grateful to Kathy Utgard for organizing costumes and helping to cue the angels, shepherds, three kings, animals, stars, Mary, Joseph, inkeeper – whew! As all the children gathered in the Education Wing, they enjoyed delightful goodie bags provided by Mary and Mark Baldwin. There were many special moments and thoughtful people making each child feel special and treasured. It was a service that really held the Christmas spirit on Christmas Eve at Saint Mark's.

FACILITIES REPORT

SUBMITTED BY STEVE BRINDZA, VESTRY FACILITIES CO-CHAIR

The Saint Mark's Vestry facilities team was comprised of Larry Burton and Steve Brindza, getting a lot of assistance this year from Pat Iams.

With Bill Ryan taking on full-time campus management oversight this past year, Larry and Steve primarily made themselves available for reporting problems with the building. Larry and Steve have both toured the entire Saint Mark's campus, and they served as touch points for parishioners and other active members to contact upon noticing needed repairs. They've also had made available the list of service vendors and contract employees, keeping notebook pages with names and telephone numbers of the representatives.

This summer, Steve worked with our flower-watering volunteers, coordinating days to rotate a thrice weekly (minimum) watering.

Steve has familiarized himself with the SWACO dump, located near Grove City, and that might come in handy as he and Larry can work to coordinate a clearing out of an office basement. Pat has shown us excess scrap wood and components that need a clearing-out and a hauling-off.

Larry and Steve have been supplied listings of vendors and service reps for us in case she needed us to make or assist with a service call.

HOSPITALITY REPORT: EVENTS IN 2009

SUBMITTED BY ANICE ELLIS & PAT KIRKLEY,
HOSPITALITY CO-CHAIRS

- Jan. 31** Prepared and served lunch for participants of the Safe Church Workshop.
- Feb. 8** Served a light brunch for the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's following the 10:00 a.m. service.
- Feb. 8** Served a reception and gave a gift of Buckeye candies for members of Buckeye Glee Club following a concert.
- March 1** Served a reception following Choral Evensong.
- May 3** Following Evensong for the Fourth Sunday after Easter, we served a reception.
- May 15** Served a small reception following an Organ Recital.
- May 24** Served a Welcome Brunch for Newcomers following the morning service at Saint Mark's.
- May 31** Provided and served refreshments form Pentecost Celebration and blessing of new space.
- Nov.1** Served refreshments following All Saints' Choral Evensong.
- Dec. 6** Wassail Reception following Advent Lessons and Carols.
- Jan. 23 (2010)** Prepared and served a Soup Luncheon for the Photo Safari Class.

We could not have done this job without a great deal of assistance from our committee and many members of the parish, and we thank all of you very much.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

As Vestry Small Group Representatives, we engaged in the following activities for 2009:

Shortly after the new Vestry year began, we mailed a letter to all Small Group leaders to remind them that we were their Vestry representatives. We encouraged them to alert us to any ideas and concerns that they might want us to consider and/or take to the Vestry. We also asked for any updates to their information since the October, 2008, Ministry Fair as well as a roster of their current membership. After collecting the information, we revised the description of the small group ministries which later was distributed at a worship service and is available in the Parish Hall, thanks to the work of our Office Manager, Jessie.

There are currently 27 small groups of different natures: some are for fun and fellowship, including book groups, Supper Group, golf and softball leagues and a new cycling group; some are for spiritual growth and worship volunteers such as Church School teachers, Vacation Bible School staff, Youth Groups, Altar Guild, Worship Assistants and Adult and Children's Choirs; some are volunteer opportunities that support parish infrastructure such as Directory Volunteers, Planters and Weeders, and Office Volunteers; others are volunteer opportunities that respond to community needs through our Outreach Ministry, such as St John's-Town Street Dinners and Open Shelter Lunches. Perhaps our Coffee House Ministry falls under several of these categories in presenting various arts programs, spiritual growth presentations, a parish talent show and the use of community participation.

After the **Thursday Morning Communion/Breakfast Group** disbanded, therefore leaving no group to assemble the Open Shelter Lunches three or four times a year, we met with Outreach co-chair, Pat Iams and Open Shelter Lunches coordinator, B.J. Hauswirth. We determined that this group, because of its nature and budget needs, appropriately belonged under our Outreach Ministry rather than as an independent small group activity.

In the Spring, after the resignation of Pat Barton who had graciously and effectively co-chaired the Member Care Ministry with Carolyn Laughlin for four years, we recruited Lou Lenz as the new co-chair.

In July 2009, we began an effort to put together a booklet of prayers which might be used by Small Group members' ministry. Another goal was to encourage each small group to consider the whole of Saint Mark's and to pray for our combined needs during their gatherings. Our aim was to help each group find or develop a prayer that spoke to its efforts to witness to Christ. A few group leaders responded to our e-mail, who had created some prayers for their group, but a booklet has not yet been developed. At this point, specific small groups are included during the weekly Prayers of the People at each Sunday worship service.

We look forward to working with our Small Group Ministries in 2010, including a proposed Ministry Fair on September 12, 2010. Again, we encourage our Small Group leaders to seek our help with ideas or concerns they may have, especially those that may need Vestry response.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Graves and Marilyn Smith

OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Although Saint Mark's budget constraints have limited our Ministry's distribution of approved funds, we have done a remarkable job of bringing Outreach to the attention of the congregation through regular bulletin and EPISTLE notices and our use of catalogues, speakers, and collections. We have 15 dedicated members of the Outreach Ministry, and anyone is welcome to join the Ministry. We meet regularly on the second Sunday of the month after church.

Historically, we have supported, promoted, and volunteered in:

Episcopal Community Services Foundation. ECSF is a diocesan-wide organization that funds small grants to churches throughout the Diocese. These grants support food pantries, meals, tutoring, and social services. St. John's-Town Street is the Columbus recipient where we have a Saint Mark's presence. **\$1000 donation.**

Episcopal Retirement Homes. Despite some recent frustrations in its effort to provide affordable housing in the Columbus area, ERH continues to investigate properties and financing arrangements to meet its commitment to the Columbus area. A number of parishioners as well as our Associate Rector continue to support ERH's efforts in Central OH. **\$2000 donation.**

Episcopal Relief and Development. Works in 46 countries to promote health, improve food and safe water supplies, create economic opportunity, and respond to disasters from Myanmar to New Orleans. Outreach regularly promotes the ERD catalog for gift-giving. Saint Mark's Guatemala Mission may be our local version of ERD. **\$2000 donation** was matched by one of ERD's national donors.

Habitat for Humanity. In a consortium with seven other northwest churches, we financed the building of a local home in the Hilltop area. We have had one hands-on volunteer and 3-4 volunteers who regularly provide lunches. **\$2500 donation.**

Open Shelter lunches. 180-200 lunches prepared by 12-15 parishioners 3/year. About **\$650** was spent on food.

St. John's Columbus. 10 to 12 parishioners buy, prepare and serve warm meals for 100-150 underserved folks in the Franklinton area of Columbus three times per year. About **\$1000.** spent on food. In addition, Saint Mark's successfully held a Christmas Cookie Walk, and the **\$1014** profit was donated to the St. John's Street Church project for food.

Collections, spearheaded by very active leaders, parish members generously donate to:

NNEMAP. Boxes in the Parish Hall fill regularly with food, toiletries, and, once a year, grooming kits. Lists of imminent needs for the pantry are posted once a month so that parishioners can take a list to the store with them.

Toiletries for St. John's Columbus. St. John's serves the homeless and vulnerable in the Franklinton area.

Blankets, sleeping bags, tents for the homeless at St. John's Columbus.

Tools for Schools. Backpacks and generous school supplies for Dowd Education Center at the Homeless Families Foundation (Franklinton).

Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes filled with small gifts for children who are victims of war, disease, disaster, and poverty.

Hat and Mitten Tree. Warmth for Homeless Families Foundation.

Teddy Bears. Given during grief counseling at Ohio State Medical Center by our Deacon Joan Maynard. Mothers whose babies have not survived may carry a bear home in their otherwise empty arms.

A Significant Parish International Outreach: La Labor, Guatemala:

For the second year, Saint Mark's has sponsored a major "hands-on" humanitarian trip to the community of La Labor. Participants agreed that their lives were enriched and changed by the experience of living with the religious community and participating in village life. A UNHO Alpha latrine was built (by our team!) for a single mom and her two children. School supplies were taken, and, since then, at least seven scholarships have been donated to sponsor village children at the school. Anyone is invited to "Friends of La Labor" meetings, and travel plans are underway for another Saint Mark's trip in July 2010.

As a **one-time commitment**, Outreach sponsored a Labor Day Bake Sale which netted about **\$600**. Proceeds were sent to **Share Our Strength**, a national feeding program for children.

Plans for 2010 will be somewhat dictated by the budget that is dedicated to Outreach. We would hope to continue projects on local, state, and international levels. Thanks to ALL who faithfully give of their time and generously give to collections.

We begin each Outreach Meeting with a prayer. *Let us end our report with that same prayer: "God, your concern for the needy is unrelenting—draw our concern into yours. Your compassion for the needy is limitless—draw our compassion into yours. As you long for justice, may we also strive for it. Forgive our doubt, forgive our neglect. Open our eyes to structures of oppression and free us from apathy and indifference. Give us courage to accept our responsibility, wisdom to chart a sound course amid complexity, perseverance to finish our work, and the gift of your Spirit to do what alone we cannot do. So may we serve to your honor and glory and the wellbeing of your beloved people throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

—Submitted by Pat Iams, Vestry

STEWARDSHIP AT SAINT MARK'S IN 2009

Dear friends in Christ,

Stewardship is about raising money for the church. No, it's not. Yes, it is. No, it's NOT. Yes, it IS. Well, that discussion can go on forever. But, I think it is always helpful to step back a bit and put the money part of stewardship in perspective. That's what we have been working on at Saint Mark's for a number of years, and it is an ongoing process.

Christian Stewardship begins with the recognition that life is a gift from God, that this gift is given to us by God, and that God is a generous giver. When we have this understanding at the very heart of our lives, we see everything in terms of gifts received and gifts to be given. All that we are and all that we have—our lives, intelligence, creativity, sensibilities and abilities—are gifts from God. Thus we are called to be a grateful, responsive and responsible people.

Christian Stewardship involves all of us and all that we have. How we live our lives affects our relationship with God. Thinking of stewardship in terms of time, talent and treasure helps us focus and apply the concept of stewardship to our lives. How we use our time for God's service, for work, for the care of others or the care of ourselves is all a matter of stewardship. How we use our talents, whether driving, cooking, teaching, building or just making a call to check-in, is a matter of stewardship. And finally, there is the issue of treasure. We are invited to come into a relationship with God, the owner and generous giver of all that we have, through our giving. Being intentional in our giving, and recognizing that we are giving back to God, consciously making choices on how we "spend" what has been given to us, are matters of stewardship.

As John Westerhoff concludes in his book *Grateful and Generous Hearts*, "Stewardship is not a program or campaign, it is not about raising

money for the church budget; it is a way of life that issues forth naturally from Christian faith and spiritual life."

Throughout the past year we have seen the fruits of good stewardship at Saint Mark's. Just look around you. The renovations that are nearly complete are not just cosmetic; they are practical, functional, and in both the long run and the short run will help us enhance our ministry. We have also been good stewards of your *From Generation to Generation* pledge dollars. The project will probably be completed at or under budget, and the surplus added to the Trinity Guild Fund which funds building repairs and improvements.

Last year we offered the first of what will be an annual program called **"Remember, Renew, Rejoice"** which is designed to help parishioners be better **stewards of their estates...** Make a will... Set up an advance directive.... Plan your memorial service.

This past summer, Dr. Greg Hitzhusen from Ohio Interfaith Power and Light led the Lawn Chair Theologians program with a discussion of the biblical views on **Stewardship of God's Creation**.

In the past and hopefully later this year, Saint Mark's will offer a Ministry Fair that raises up the many opportunities for ministry within our congregation. This program is often done in churches around the Feast of Pentecost as we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is **Stewardship of our Time and Talents**.

Then, of course, there are those four months in the fall, when we ask each member of our congregation – lay and clergy – to make their financial commitments to the ministry of Saint Mark's. This giving supports a very large percentage of the costs of our ministry – staff, buildings and ground, programs and outreach beyond the congregation. Giving toward the

mission and ministry of the congregation is also good (and necessary Christian) stewardship.)

For the second year in a row, giving at Saint Mark's has felt the impact of the recession; a number of people had to reduce their giving to face financial realities. Yet, quite a number of parishioners substantially increased their giving. Our average pledge is still about \$2700 a year, and we have 8 households giving \$10,000 or more to our ministry in 2010. And, some of our parishioners have (over the years) adopted tithing as their standard for giving. But, we also have a number of parishioners who do not pledge (but could). For the ministry of the people of Saint Mark's to thrive, really thrive, the commitment of time, talent, and treasure is needed by all who consider themselves members of our community of faith.

The financial results of our Fall Stewardship Program are available through the Treasurer's Office and are reflected in the 2010 budget which is found on pages 9 and 10 of this booklet.

Many thanks to John Marchak, Bill Reddington, Justin Griest, Dot Yeager, Barb Keyes, Bill Silliman, Don McConnell, Dale Hartney, Lindsay Graves, Stan Laughlin and numerous others who gave of their time and talent to our Fall Stewardship program last fall.

Respectfully submitted,


The Rev. Bruce Smith
Associate Rector