



the EPISTLE



The Monthly Parish Newsletter of
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JANUARY 2021 • ISSUE 262

MEANDERINGS BY THE INTERIM

Epiphany 2021 - A Renewed Look

The expectant birth has come, the incarnation is a reality and we are still here! The Epiphany will arrive on Wednesday, January 6 and what will it show us? Will it be life "as usual" or will we see life differently? Below is a quote I came across from the great Leonard Bernstein, please read it in the context of The Epiphany.

"Any great art work ... revives and readapts time and space, and the measure of its success is the extent to which it makes you an inhabitant of that world - the extent to which it invites you in and lets you breathe its strange, special air."

— **Leonard Bernstein**

God has come into the word, not as art, but as one of us! Jesus revives readapts all time and space. As a Disciple of Jesus, to what extent does it make you a "better" inhabitant of the world? You have been invited, by your baptism, into breathing the "strange, special air" of His grace, love and redemption. God is among us!

Chris+

Transitional Priest-in-Charge



UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

FOCUS GROUPS NEED YOU!

The Search committee is conducting focus groups to gather your thoughts and wishes about Saint Mark's and our path forward together. The groups are meeting on [zoom](#) and last approximately one hour. This is your opportunity to answer a few open ended questions in a small group and express hopes and desires for the future of Saint Mark's and the rector we seek.

The following are groups that are scheduled:

- **Tuesday, January 5 - 7:00p.m.**
- **Wednesday, January 6 - 1:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, January 10 - 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, January 11 - 7:00p.m.**
- **Sunday, January 17 - 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.**

Please sign up using [SignUp Genius](#). If you have questions or difficulty signing up please call the church office and speak to [Melanie](#) (614-486-9452).

Please join us in these important talks for our future!

December 16, 2020**A Note from the Treasurer**

I imagine like me, you will be glad to put 2020 behind us. It has been a difficult year in many ways. When we put together the budget last year, so many things were uncertain. Little did we know that everything would be turned upside down in March by a global pandemic. I will not bore you with all the details of the ups and downs. That will be included in my annual report. We are close enough to year end that I can safely say that we will complete this crazy year with positive cashflow. Expenses were down in several areas and we were fortunate that most of our members completed their pledges. A few have surprised us with extra donations, including a couple of very large ones, which made up for the incomplete pledges and the loss of the Junior Explorer's rent.

As we wrap up our 2021 Pledging Campaign, it appears we will have pledges of about \$390,000. That total is roughly \$44,000 less than last year. Our staff expenses will be lower during this coming year and we have been seeing an upward trend in non-pledged gifts. We should be able to pass a balanced budget for 2021 which I will present at the annual meeting. Hopefully as the excitement builds around the future, with a new Rector and the defeat of the COVID virus, we will see our numbers grow.

A big and pleasant surprise arrived in December. We received a \$50,000 unrestricted bequest from our longtime member and very dear friend, Martha Wheeler. The Vestry has not yet had a chance to consider an appropriate use for that gift. If you have an interest in making a deferred, planned gift to Saint Mark's, please contact Chris, Dot or me.

I have missed seeing everyone at church on Sundays. Not being able to worship with you on Christmas Eve will be hard. I am excited, however, to witness the virtual gathering streamed over the internet. Lynn and I have signed in to our streamed Sunday services produced using our new high resolution cameras and enjoyed the beautiful sounds of the organ and choir voices that the new high fidelity microphones are able to capture. The result has filled our family room with the sights and especially the sounds that are just like being there live. If you have a smart TV and can download the Vimeo app, I strongly encourage it. You will be amazed!

I hope you have a blessed holiday season, and very Merry Christmas! I look forward to seeing you in church again before too many more months pass!

Blessings and Peace!

Phil Glandon, Treasurer

OPEN DOORS

The Open Hearts, Open Doors Task Force continues to monitor changes in our Public Health Advisory Status. Franklin County has issued a "Stay Home" Public Health Advisory due to the elevated levels of new cases of COVID 19 and impact on hospital capacity. While in-person worship and Eucharist is suspended at this time, the 10:30 a.m. service will continue to be livestreamed. The worship service will be available either on the Saint Mark's website (accessed via the "Livestream Services" link in our page's main menu) or on our Facebook page. We will continue to stream just the audio on Zoom for those who prefer to dial in by telephone. To most easily watch each Sunday's livestream, as well as archived services, go to saintmarkscolumbus.org and click on the "Livestream Services" link in our page's main menu. Contact Melanie Jacobs in the Parish Office by phone or send an email to av@saintmarkscolumbus.org if you have questions or would like assistance.

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MATTHEW BESTER



Note: The majority of this article originally appeared in the electronic edition of the December Epistle but missed the print edition.

Organist Update

I'm thrilled to announce that Robert Wisniewski will take up the post of Interim Organist beginning January 1. Bob was the Principal Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus from 2004 until his retirement in 2017. He has filled in as a substitute organist at Saint Mark's on numerous occasions over the years, including on a couple of Sundays in the past several months. He also contributed the organ accompaniment for our most recent virtual choir anthem, Charles Villiers Stanford's *O for a Closer Walk*, which premiered on November 15. He will be contributing additional recordings for upcoming virtual choir projects in Advent and for Christmas Eve.

Bob is a superb and experienced organist, and we are very blessed that he is available to help lead us through this interim period as we undertake our search for the next organist at Saint Mark's. Our search will begin in earnest after the holidays, and we hope to have our next organist at the bench by August. Between now and January 1, we are delighted to continue to welcome Ron Kenreich as our guest organist. Ron has been with us for most of the Sundays since Tyler's departure in October, and he has done an outstanding job leading us in song and worship each week. We are very grateful for his artistry and for his steady presence during these unusual and difficult times.

Update on Singing

Over the past couple of months, we have gradually increased the role of our staff singers Steve Barker and Jacob Conrad during Sunday services. We began in October with solo chanting of the Psalm and the Alleluia from the Chapel of Reconciliation. In November, we began to have our cantors join in the singing of the hymns at the beginning and the end of the service. When Franklin County was moved to a Level 4 Health Emergency (purple) in late November, however, we had to cease live singing during services per diocesan rules. Since then, our cantors have been prerecording their chants for broadcast during the streamed services in order to limit the number of worship participants present on Sunday morning. We are looking to have them return to live singing soon, as conditions permit. We also will continue to seek ways to incorporate virtual choir offerings.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve this year will be like no other in the history of Saint Mark's. This year there will be a single, online-only service broadcast live at 5 p.m. Music will include a virtual Christmas pageant led by the Canterbury Choir as well as carols and an anthem (all virtual) by the Saint Mark's Choir. The service will include our traditional singing of Silent Night, which we encourage everyone at home to join in singing by candlelight. The service will stream both on our website and on our Facebook page (audio only also available via Zoom). The recording will be available for viewing afterwards on our website and on Facebook for those who are unable to view it live.



GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree. Our collection was much smaller this year than in the past, but NNEMAP appreciated the gifts just as much. In 2019, the Christmas Store provided gifts for approximately a 1000 children. By the time the final tally is in, they believe they will have provided gifts for as many this year. The Outreach Ministry appreciates your ongoing support of our projects for NNEMAP.

CATCH Court Updates

Catch Court is back to using Zoom for its sessions due to COVID. After a decline in participants due to changes in the CPD Vice Squad, Catch is growing again. Four new women plead into the program in December. While we wish there was no one in need to the services, it is great news that once women are arrested, there are more of them choosing to change their lives. Some of the reasons they listed as to why they want to be in CATCH included,

- "I want to learn a better way to live."
- "I've always turned back to drugs in the past, I want to stop."
- "I don't want to die."

Want to continue supporting CATCH and Freedom during this time? Order dinners from Freedom at Home. To order weekly meals, go to <https://bit.ly/38hqMgz>. These prepared meals delivered to your home are \$25 for two or \$50 for 4.

Another way to support this program is to write notes of encouragement to women in the jail. Each week we receive a list of women in the jail who may be considering entering CATCH. If you would like to participate in this program, contact Pat Iams at pati51@aol.com.



CAUSE COOKIES

Thank you to everyone who purchased Cause Cookies from Freedom at a Cart. Freedom had a goal of selling 500 boxes. With the generous support of the community, they sold over 1200 boxes. St Marks alone ordered 65 boxes, providing 32 months of support to one survivor. What a wonderful turn out of support by both St. Marks and the community.



Layette Ministry

The Outreach Ministry sent to boxes of duffle bags to Trinity Episcopal. Prior to Outreach supporting Trinity, they were using paper bags to hold the layette items they provided to the mothers. Now they are able to place the items in a canvas bag they can use as a diaper bag or for luggage. We received the following thank you:

We received the duffle bags to put baby items in and want to let you know how much we really appreciate you and everyone in your church. God be with you.

*Sincerely, Celia Stiltner, Layette Coordinator,
Trinity Episcopal Church, McArthur, Ohio*

If you would like to participate in this ministry, you are more than welcome. We have ongoing sewing projects as we make bibs, burp cloths, pacifier holders and wash cloths. We also knit hats, booties and toys. Currently, all of these can be done in the safety of your own home. If you aren't handy with a sewing machine or needles, we are always in need of donations of infant clothing, blankets, diapers and wipes or other infant items. We can also use gently used clothing for toddlers to assist with older siblings. If you have any items to donate, or would like to participate, email Leslie Winters at mslesliewinters@gmail.com.

NNEMAP

Want to know what's happening at NNEMAP? Well they are providing food for over 100 families per day six days a week. In 2015 they had 9000 visits. Through November of 2020, they had already had 19,000 visits. Based on the need this year, they have opened their doors to the entire city as opposed to limiting services to people in specific zip codes.

When the pandemic started they had to adjust their processes. Initially they were handing out prepackaged boxes of food. Currently, they have refined that process to accommodate the differences in the size of their clients families.

Several months ago we told you about the delivery service they started for people who either cannot go out during the pandemic or are at high risk. That service has grown. They are now delivering groceries to 200 families per month. They are in need of additional drivers if anyone is looking for a socially distanced volunteer activity.

Here is a fun article about a recent week:

One of the great things about working in the social services sector is knowing that your work helps people. An even greater thing is being around people who volunteer their time in service to others. If you can't draw inspiration from that, well, you're in the wrong line of work.

Last Wednesday, NNEMAP Food Pantry was the beneficiary of some seriously community minded second graders from Grandview's Stevenson Elementary. The four second-grade classes gathered up over 500 dental-care products for distribution to NNEMAP Food Pantry families. It was like a *Treasure Island* of toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash and floss! Look at these fantastic foragers of outstanding oral healthcare items:



Each of the classroom teachers used the project as another kind of "teachable moment"—counting up all of the different items, working on addition to add up the total and creating graphs to show the sums in visual form. Great lesson on so many levels.

It was tough to top Wednesday's foray into the heart of Grandview—but Thursday's volunteer group made it as close to a dead heat as you can get. NNEMAP Food Pantry is closed for business on Thursdays, but we are open for deliveries. Specifically fresh produce—we get about 6,000 pounds every Thursday morning. Without some volunteer help, it can make for some long and backbreaking days for the paid staff.

It's not easy work, and you have to be willing to get your hands dirty. Who better to come to the rescue than this crew:



Yep, that's right, we brought in the heavy hitters. That's a group of AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers who are currently posted with our local Habitat for Humanity branch. In just a few short hours, this gang for the good sorted, stocked and otherwise helped store four huge pallets of fresh produce. They also helped prep for Friday's delivery of dry goods, got our shopping carts loaded up and ready for Friday, restocked and organized our kids' bookshelf and probably did 10 other things that were amazing. It was an incredibly productive morning with a great group. It was pretty inspiring, so we must be in the right line of work!

What is St. Mark's doing to support NNEMAP? In addition to our monetary gifts, we hope you will support our collections. We aren't collecting any specific items this month, but the baskets are in the church lobby for donations or food or hygiene items. If you can't get in the church, and have items for NNEMAP, let Bill Karl or Barb Keyes know.



STREET CHURCH

Many thanks to the numerous St. Mark's parishioners who contributed to the physically distant, but spiritually meaningful, preparations for the St. John's Street Church lunch held on November 29. This was our final commitment of 2020 for this ministry.

Marilyn Smith, Marilyn Karl, Barb Keyes, Jill Hinton, Pat Barton, Anice Ellis, Sally Rechner, Ellen Berndt and Roberta Morton all made 'Community Chili' and some also contributed hard-boiled eggs.

Ellen also bought fruit and Pam Thurston purchased chips, water and bags. They also helped to fill the lunch bags with items.

Dot and Dave Yeager gave a last minute boost to packaging the lunch for 100 people and Dan and Roberta Morton transported it to Broad and Central where St. John's parishioners distributed it.

Our next commitment is set for January 31, 2021. In order to continue to practice physical distancing and to help support small businesses in Franklinton, St. Mark's plans to provide funds to help St. John's for this lunch.

Although this ministry with St. John's has looked different during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is an extremely important way that we show Christ's love to the world.

St. John's Street Church ministry is one of many ministries supported by the people of St. Mark's through the Outreach Committee. If this is a ministry that resonates with you, please feel free to make a donation to the St. Mark's and designate it through the Outreach Committee for St. John's Street Church Ministry. Thanks so much!

God Moment(s): Waving

What happens when I take our dog Lucy for a walk in our neighborhood?

When there are no cars parked on the street, Lucy and I keep to the left. And when a car is coming toward us, the driver, almost without fail, swerves to his/her left.

When this happens, I wave a "thank you" to the driver. Then, almost without fail, the driver will wave back to Lucy and me. This makes both the driver and me smile.

Lucy sits there and just "waits".

Most often in this situation, I notice a smile on the driver's face while we exchange waves.

So, what is it about waving and smiling? And what if we all were to start waving and smiling at each other?

I know that when this happens to me, I feel happy, pleased, and at peace.



STAYING CONNECTED

Many activities at St. Mark's continue to take place in some form in spite of social distancing and closures, and many more will resume as restrictions are eased. In an effort to match parish members with interest groups, we are requesting that small group leaders or contact people check the St. Mark's website: [Enrichment Groups | Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Columbus](#) and review the information about your group. If it is lacking, or inaccurate, please send corrections, especially updated contact information, to Marilyn Karl, mjkarl@yahoo.com or Jay Iams, lams_l@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping to keep us connected!

VESTRY NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Vestry is the governing body of the congregation and consists of 15 members of the parish who are elected by the congregation. It is the vestry's responsibility to be the final decision-making body, which approves the parish budget, makes parish policy decisions, and spends the parish's money on mission, ministry and maintenance. Ideally, the vestry should reflect a cross-section of the congregation and the varieties of experience, skills, and interests of our faith community. While Saint Mark's practices a shared leadership model with our clergy, the church canons assigns certain responsibilities to the rector, specifically worship and spiritual life.

The Vestry consists of three wardens and twelve members. (Think of the Senior and Junior wardens as president and a vice-president.) The Youth Warden (high school age) is included to represent the voice of our youth. Each warden is elected for a one-year term. The other 12 members of the Vestry are elected for three-year terms. Each year, four new parishioners are elected. The vestry also appoints a treasurer and a clerk annually. Information about current vestry members can be found on Saint Mark's website at the About Us tab: <http://saintmarkscolumbus.org/vestry/>.

What are the attributes of a Vestry candidate?

- Regular attendance at church
- Be an active participant in Saint Mark's parish life
- Support Saint Mark's financially at a level consistent with their means and capacity: annual giving to Saint Mark's should be one of their top three charitable causes

What is expected of a Vestry member?

A person who is selected to the Vestry should be called to make a sacrificial commitment to the role, and perform the following duties:

- Represent all parishioners, not specific groups within the parish or specific interests: think, pray, act in the best interests of the parish as a whole.
- Attend significant parish events
- Accept responsibility for committee work
- Attend vestry meetings, the annual retreat, and faithfully fulfill "Vestry Person of the Week" duties on a minimum of four Sundays throughout the year (this role has been on "pause" during this phase of the pandemic)
- Serve a full three-year term
- Assist in recruiting new vestry members

Next steps:

Election of new members to vestry will occur at the Annual Parish Celebration on Sunday, February 14, following the 10:30 a.m. service. If you would like to discuss in detail or offer a nomination, please see the Nominating Committee: David Boop, Pam Thurston, Jay Wilcox, Dot Yeager or Mark Drew.

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S

A NOTE FROM ANICE ELLIS

I would like to thank all of my friends at St. Marks for the kind and caring expressions of sympathy to me and my family at the time of Michaels' death. Thank you for yummy food, cards, flowers and phone calls. I would especially like to thank Father Chris and Bishop Ken for their loving attention with the beautiful service and internment in the Memorial Garden. I feel very blessed to be a member of St. Mark's family.

In Christ's love,

Anice

2021 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Pledge envelope packets are expected to be available the first week of January for those of you who requested them. They can be found in the office. You might want to [check with Melanie](#) before stopping by in case delivery is delayed due to the holidays and COVID! If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Glandon (Lsglandon6@gmail.com)

By the way, don't be concerned if you notice there is no number on your envelopes. With our new Shelby software, we no longer use numbers, just names!

JANUARY ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, January 6, at 6 p.m., Dr. Judith Grant, professor of political science at Ohio University, will wrap up the Religion and Politics mini-series with the topic of "Evangelical Movements and Presidential Politics: 1970-1980s"

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2976335033?pwd=QVUxdG92U3lUdWRmK2p5bmFTNkladz09>

Wednesdays, Jan. 13-Feb 24 at 6 p.m., the Rev. C. Christopher Thompson, Chris, will lead discussion of Chris McLaren's book, *The Secret Message of Jesus*. Zoom link <https://saintmarkscolumbus.zoom.us/j/91219463343>

Sundays, Jan. 10-Feb 14 at 9:15 a.m., the Rev. C. Christopher Thompson, Chris, will lead discussion on the topic of "Episcopal 101." Zoom link <https://saintmarkscolumbus.zoom.us/j/96946245192>

SAINT MARK'S MEMBER CARE

The Saint Mark's Member Care ministry has provided meals for a number of parishioners over the past months. We welcome anyone who might be able to fix and deliver a meal or provide a gift card for a meal. If you or someone you know could use a few lovingly prepared meals, or if you would be willing to help, please contact [Michele Johnson](#).

We also have a New Baby ministry which provides a welcoming rose and muffins to families with a new baby in the house. If you know of a family with a new baby, please contact [Regan Bohnert](#) with this information. In addition, if you are interested in helping with either meals or the new baby ministry, please contact Regan.

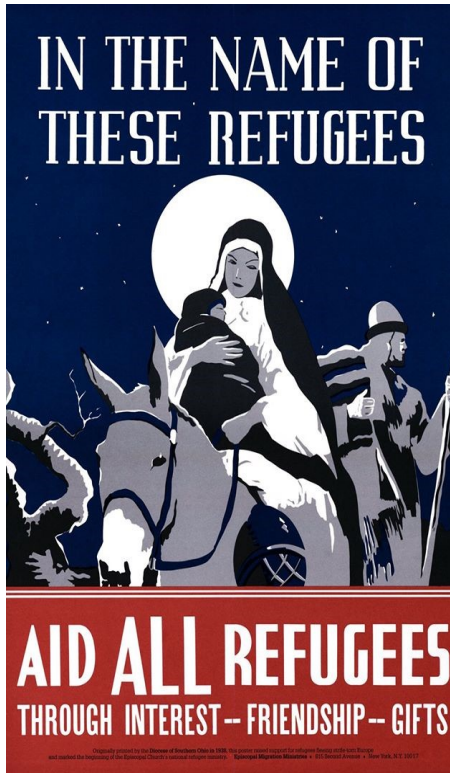
STEPHEN MINISTRY

This pandemic and isolation have been causes for loneliness, mild depression, and just plain sadness since we cannot be with family and friends in our normal ways. If you or someone you know is feeling "low" and would like to have a Stephen Minister check in with them, please let Father Chris Thompson or one of our Stephen Leaders (Pat Barton, Michele Johnson, Dianne Silliman) know. Our Stephen Ministers are wonderful lay ministers who will just "listen and walk with parishioners" during a difficult time. Stephen Ministry visits, (mostly by phone due to the weather and the pandemic) are completely confidential and provide an opportunity to share feelings that you may not want to burden your family or friends with. Please consider this wonderful ministry.

AV TEAM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Join those people 'behind the curtain' who produce Saint Mark's online religious services! The Technology Team is seeking additional tech-comfortable volunteers of all ages to assist with operating our upgraded broadcast equipment. If interested, please send an email to AV@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

CLIMATE MIGRATION



During the Christmas and Epiphany seasons, we are reminded of the “flight into Egypt” according to the second chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Mary and Joseph, along with their infant child, became refugees as they fled Herod’s persecution.

War, famine, persecution, violence, climate – are just some of the causes of migration.

Currently, Saint Mark’s Migration Ministries Committee is discussing the impact of climate change causing migration and how we, as individuals and as a church community, might respond to this crisis.

What is climate migration?

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there was an average of 22.5 million people displaced by climate or weather-related events between the years 2008 and 2018. The International Organization for Migration also estimates that by 2050 there will be 200 million climate displaced persons. Sudden onset weather events (flooding, forest fires and storms) and slow-onset events (desertification, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, air pollution, rain pattern shifts and loss of biodiversity) will exacerbate humanitarian crises and lead more people to migrate.

This Episcopal Migration Ministries article (<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/news-digest-4-5-19/>) cites an April 2, 2019 PBS *News Hour* report on how climate problems are driving many farmers out of business. Over the last decade, warming temperatures have created chronic rain shortfalls over much of the country, destroying whole crops and rendering traditional planting techniques impossible. Poorer farmers are finding subsistence agriculture out of the question. Elsewhere in the coffee business (Honduras is the fifth-largest coffee exporter in the world), high temperatures are fueling epidemics of rust fungus. The impacts of our changing climate are far reaching.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our next virtual meeting on Monday, January 11, 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Joyce Acton – 614-560-9219 or email actongroup@gmail.com.



Watch Presiding Bishop Curry’s Christmas Message 2020 here:

<https://bit.ly/3gUf0N0>

Read the Letter from Standing Committee on Bishop Transition in Southern Ohio:

<https://episcopaliansinconnection.org/standing-committee-update-on-transition/>

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

We celebrate the following birth:

Penelope D., daughter of new members Matthew and Kellee, was born November 18th. Congratulations to Matthew and Kellee!

We welcome the following into the Body of Christ through baptism:

Thomas A., son of new members Ed and Oksana, was baptized on November 18th. Welcome Thomas!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER is a new printed project to enhance communication among parishioners. It comes from a long standing tradition in the Church of England where certain public records were officially recorded in the great ledgers of their parish church. You can sign up for weekly email updates about Saint Mark's on our website www.saintmarkscolumbus.org, click on "Join Our Mailing List."

PARISH RELATED NEWS

We celebrate the following retirement:

Michael Murray will be retiring from his position of Program Coordinator for the Music & Dance Library after 19 years of service to The Ohio State University. His last day will be February 28, 2021.

Before joining the University Libraries team in 2002, Michael had pursued a career as a concert organist. In the period from 1980 - 1997, he recorded 30 CDs for the Telarc label on organs in Germany, England, France and The Netherlands, as well as the USA. He appeared as a soloist with such orchestras as the Royal Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He was the organist at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Columbus for 30 years.

Michael also authored several books, including a biography of the historian Jacques Barzun, a biography of his teacher, Marcel Dupré, and a book on Albert Schweitzer's musical activity published by Yale University Press and HarperCollins. His biography of Dupré will appear in a second edition this year and has also been published in German and French editions.

He served on the Staff Advisory Council and was instrumental in establishing the Music & Dance Library Endowment Fund. Michael also occasionally taught sections of the graduate-level course "Music Research Methods and Bibliography" for the School of Music.

We congratulate Michael on his retirement and wish him all the best!

PARISH RELATED NEWS reprises the tradition at Saint Mark's to share important information that may be of interest to members of the parish. If you know of the birth or marriage of someone related to the parish (but not a member as recorded in the parish register), a job change, retirement, achievement, student news, etc, we invite you to share it with us (and with the permission of the individuals involved, of course!) so we may pass along the good news. Information may be sent to the [Parish Office](#).

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Please visit

<http://SaintMarksColumbus.org/calendar/>

for the most up-to-date calendar,
as events and meetings may change with little
notice!

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH FORMATION

Children and Youth Formation has been gathering and going strong every Sunday (via Zoom) since start-up Sunday in September. Children in **Godly Play** (pre-K & Kindergarten) explore faith through story and play focusing most recently on the parables of Jesus. In **Children's Chapel** (grades 1-5), children learn the language and symbols used in the church through art, song, and story. Lessons are based on old and new testament readings following the Revised Common Lectionary and have included "Being a Leader: Lessons from Deborah," "God Wants Us to Talk to Him," "Service and Giving Thanks," and "Mary's Christmas Song." Children also sing hymns led by members of St. Mark's Choir and Canterbury Choir. **Youth Group** (grades 6-12) gathers for fellowship, fun, and discussion. They continue with the online multi-player game, Among Us, and discuss a wide variety of topics, which have included family and Advent traditions, the youth experience at St. Mark's, and the search for a new rector. Please join us – there is always room for more! Also, if you would like to receive weekly curriculum notes from Children and Youth Formation, please contact Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt @ FormationI@saintmarkscolumbus.org

As we enter into the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany we look with renewed spirit of hope, faith, joy, and peace, and we thank you for sharing your children with us!

Also, the section that has the Remote Formation Format should be changed slightly:

- 9:45 All gather for greeting and sing-along
- 10:00 Breakout into age-appropriate groups:
- Godly Play (preschool and kindergarten)
- Children's Chapel (first - fifth grades)
- Youth Group (sixth grade - high school)
- 10:25 All gather for closing prayer
- 10:27 End so that all may join the 10:30 church service



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SAINT MARK'S

Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark's held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ's ministry within and beyond our parish.

SAINT MARK'S VESTRY MEMBERS'

PHONE NUMBERS

Dot Yeager, *Senior Warden* – 614-921-1485

Mark Drew, *Junior Warden* – 614-301-2675

David Boop, *Outreach* – 614-867-3211

Pam Thurston, *Outreach* – 614-266-9232

Jay Wilcox, *Stewardship* – 571-228-1201

Irina Reed, *Formation* – 330-990-6593

Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, *Formation* – 614-505-6792

Marilyn Karl, *Member Connection* – 614-562-1942

Jay Iams, *Member Connection* – 614-271-0849

Anice Ellis, *Search Committee Liaison* – 614-563-6984

Judith Grant, *Parish Life* – 614-956-6844

Bill Mayr, *Communications* – 614-537-0045

Phil Glandon, *Treasurer* – 614-486-5806

Barbara Hyre, *Clerk* – 614-488-1567

SAINT MARK'S STAFF

The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson, *Transitional Priest-in-Charge*

rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Dr. Matthew Bester, *Director of Music*

directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Gary L. Garber, *Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus*

emeritusmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Dr. Michael Murray, *Organist Emeritus*

emeritusorganist@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Bill Silliman, *Head Verger*

headverger@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Melanie Jacobs, *Office Manager*

officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org