

---

SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

---

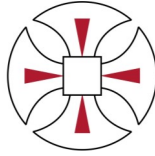


# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021



*Above: An image from Saint Mark's 2020 Live streamed Christmas Eve Service*



## Report of the Transitional Priest-in Charge

*Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!” Ruth 1:16-17*

Grace and Peace from God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

I am a person that would prefer the spoken word to my audience over the written word. I love and enjoy the spontaneity as well as the give and take with those I am speaking. Yet I write this report to you, the gracious and loving People of Saint Mark's, as if I am speaking so I pray you hear my voice today.

I use the words from the Book of Ruth especially for each of you who love this incredible Parish. (These words are spoken by Ruth to her daughter-in-law Oprah. Ruth was to return to her people but instead wanted to follow the God of the Hebrews.) You all have embraced me and Mary Jo with this same love as Ruth had for Oprah and we are overwhelmed. I can truly say; “Your people are my people, your God my God: ...not even death itself is going to come between us!” Thank you!

In these six month an incredible amount of prayer, organization, work, joy and excitement has happened. Consider what you all have accomplished;

- Leadership: Amazing Leadership in Dot Yeager, Mark Drew and the entire Vestry
- Maintenance: Painting, roofing repairs, HV/AC, Building Overview and COVID Cleaning
- Audio Visual Upgrade: \$50,000 Live Stream Production Program – IT Committee with Mark Drew, Matthew Bester, Dave Yeager, Sam Slee, Ellen Ted Meyer and George Reed
- Stewardship 2021: a successful program led by Jay Wilcox
- Christian Formation (Education) On-Line: Led by Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, Irina Reed, Laura Skoracki, Joanne Drew and their faithful assistants
- Search Committee: Elizabeth Anstaett-Chair, Scott Millburn-Vice Chair, Barbara Keyes, Gloria Wylie, Betsy Gillespie, Michele Johnson and Anice Ellis-Vestry Rep.
- Music/Services: Christmas Service and Pageant, Lent-Easter (planning)
- Outreach: \$46,000 expended in assisting programs
- Staff: A blessing to work with Matthew Bester and Melanie Jacobs

Just a “few” suggestions from where I sit;

1. Pray daily for your New Rector.
2. Pray daily for each other and especially those in Parish Leadership.
3. Give generously to the Mission of the Parish.
4. Celebrate and give thanks to God in every breath.

Blessings and Peace,

*Chris +*

February 14, 2021

## **Annual Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer and Call to Order
2. Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
3. Introductions
4. Recognition of Retiring Members of Vestry
5. Nominating Committee Report
6. Election
7. Parish Reports
  - a. Treasurer: Phil Glandon
  - b. Transitional Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Chris Thompson
  - c. Senior Warden: Dot Yeager
  - d. Communications: Bill Mayr
8. Discussion for the Good of the Parish
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

# SAINT MARK'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

---



### 2020 Staff, Vestry, and Trustees

#### Staff

<b>Transitional Priest-In-Charge</b>	The Rev. Chris Thompson
<b>Director of Music</b>	Dr. Matthew Bester
<b>Interim Organist</b>	Robert Wisniewski
<b>Office Manager</b>	Melanie Jacobs

#### Vestry

<b>Senior Warden</b>	Dot Yeager
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Mark Drew
<b>Youth Warden</b>	Henry Markwardt
<b>Vestry Members</b>	
<b>Class of 2021</b>	David Boop Pamela Thurston Jay Wilcox
<b>Class of 2022</b>	Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt Jay Iams Marilyn Karl
<b>Class of 2023</b>	Anice Ellis Judith Grant Bill Mayr Irina Reed
<b>Convention Delegates</b>	Cheryl Boop Dave Yeager *Wardens serve <i>ex officio</i>
<b>Trustee</b>	Pat Iams
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phil Glandon
<b>Secretary (Clerk)</b>	Barbara Hyre

#### Trustees

<b>Chair</b>	Dan Morton
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phil Glandon
<b><i>ex officio</i>*</b>	Jill Hinton Pat Iams Jeff Porterfield *immediate Past Senior Warden

# **Saint Mark's 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

February 9, 2020

The 2020 annual meeting was held in the parish hall following the 10:30 AM worship service. The meeting included a brunch provided by the Vestry. The Rev. Paul St. Germain called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM with an opening prayer. 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. Paul thanked the Vestry for providing the brunch. Barbara Hyre was appointed Recorder for the meeting.

**MINUTES** of the 2019 annual meeting were, upon *motion, duly seconded and passed*, approved as written.

## **VESTRY SLATE**

The Nominating Committee brought forth the following slate of candidates for the 2020 Vestry and Convention Delegates:

- Senior Warden – Dot Yeager
- Junior Warden – Mark Drew
- Youth Warden – Henry Markwardt
- Vestry Class of 2023 – Bill Mayr
- Vestry Class of 2023 – Judith Grant
- Vestry Class of 2023 – Irena Reed
- Vestry Class of 2023 – Anice Ellis

There were the following nominations from the floor:

- Convention Delegates: Cheryl Boop, Dave Yeager
- Convention Alternates: Scott Milburn

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

## **2019 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2020 BUDGET**

Phil Glandon gave the Financial Report. The results for 2019 again featured both good and bad news. The good news includes the \$336,000 gift from Muskoffs, and the \$55,000 earned by the Columbus Foundation funds, both of which contributed to a strong balance sheet. Member contributions exceeded pledges, the Redding Road house was rented for the entire year, and revenue from Junior Explorers exceeded budget. Actual income exceeded budgeted income by \$82,000. The bad news was that pledges didn't cover the operating budget and we had significant facility repair expenses.

For the 2020 budget, it is hard to project staffing costs with Paul's retirement announcement. Despite this uncertainty, raises for the staff were included in the budget. Saint Mark's will incur a \$7,000 increase in administrative costs because of transitioning to a new financial and membership software program. The plan is for expenses to be up by about 3% overall. Hopefully, unplanned facility expenses will decrease in 2020. On the income side, pledging is down this year compared to last year, creating a \$25,000 budget gap. Because more income was generated than expected last year, Phil is confident that we can cover this gap. While it is nice to have the extra money, the trend of people donating but not pledging makes it hard to plan. Saint Mark's has the financial reserves to get us through almost any crisis, but we cannot use special gifts to cover day to day expenses. Details of the special funds will be provided in a future Epistle. For the parish directory, we are planning on an interim "print out hard copy". Shelby Next, the new membership and financial software package, should make an electronic version available when we transition to it.

Phil thanked all the volunteers who help with the parish finances and accounting, including Patrick Hreachmack, Jay Wilcox, Barb Wiseman, Dorothy Vojvodich, Lynn Glandon, Judy Leach, and Gloria Wylie.

## **WARDENS' REPORT**

Dot Yeager gave the Wardens' report. Dot thanked the members rotating off Vestry (Ellen Berndt, Joanne Drew, Bryce Sullivan, Julie Moll and Scott Milburn) for their service. Dot commented on the timing of the search process for finding a new Rector. The Diocesan representative, Jason Leo, will be supporting Saint Mark's in our search. The goal is to have a great goodbye for Paul until June 28<sup>th</sup>, then identify an interim Rector. The interim will be a retired priest who has been specifically trained to act as an interim. The hope is that the interim Rector will arrive around August. At that point, Vestry, with lots of input from the parish, will begin to lead the search for Paul's permanent replacement. The hope is to have a new Rector in place by September 2021. Finally, Dot encouraged anyone interested to sign up by the end of February for the Contemplative prayer retreat.

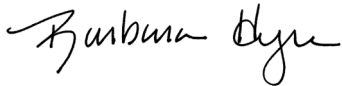
## **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Paul St. Germain reported that there will be posts detailing Lenten resources on the front page of the web site this week. Christopher Richardson will be leading Lent Madness again, and there will be lots of other opportunities for spiritual growth in the coming season of Lent. Shelby Next, the new financial and membership software program is in the works and should be up and running soon. Paul reminded parishioners that if there are things that need to be updated on the web site, a quick call or email to the office will result in the requested changes being made. The music programming at Saint Mark's will be focused on the Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat this year. Paul praised Tyler Robertson's work on the production and reminded everyone that there will be lots of ways to get involved. On the facilities front, Paul informed the parish that the grassy areas around the church will be seeded in the Spring, and new trees will be planted to replace the old Ginkgo trees that had to be removed. Paul made a point to commend Dave Yeager for all the work he does around the church. Dave recently mapped out all the heating and cooling ducts by climbing through them!

## **DISMISSAL**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM with a prayer from the Rev. Christopher Richardson.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Hyre'.

Barbara Hyre (Recorder)

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2021**

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

**CURRENT VESTRY**

SENIOR WARDEN: Dot Yeager

JUNIOR WARDEN: Mark Drew

YOUTH WARDEN: Henry Markwardt

CLASS OF 2021

David Boop

Pam Thurston

Jay Wilcox

CLASS OF 2022

Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt

Jay Iams

Marilyn Karl

CLASS OF 2023

Anice Ellis

Judith Grant

Bill Mayr

Irina Reed

**TO BE ELECTED AT SAINT MARKS' 2021 ANNUAL MEETING**

SENIOR WARDEN: Mark Drew

JUNIOR WARDEN: Leslie Winters

YOUTH WARDEN: Henry Markwardt

VESTRY CLASS OF 2024 (4)

Cheryl Boop

Julia Johnson Davis

Roman Skoracki

Sam Slee

ENDOWMENT TRUSTEE: February 2021 to February 2026

Bruce Johnson

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES (2)

Betsy Gillespie

TBD

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

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ALTERNATES (4)

Respectfully submitted,

*The Nominating Committee*

David Boop

Pam Thurston

Jay Wilcox

Dot Yeager

Mark Drew

The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

# VESTRY NOMINEES

## SENIOR WARDEN

### MARK DREW



Mark, his wife Joanne, and children (Fred and Matilda) have been members of Saint Mark's since moving to Columbus in 2008. Mark is an Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Education in the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Mark and Joanne first met during high school in their hometown of Bremerton, Washington, where they were married in 1989. Mark's education and research led them to Baltimore where he earned his PhD at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine followed by post-doctoral studies in Saint Louis, where they discovered and became members of the Episcopal Church. At Saint Mark's, Mark has served as Junior Warden, a member of the Open Hearts, Open Doors and Stewardship Committees and has enjoyed singing in the choir, and is active in the Mark's Men, a social and service group. Music, movies, cooking (especially barbeque), and photography are his favorite ways to spend any extra time he can find.

## JUNIOR WARDEN

### LESLIE WINTERS



As a child of the rust belt (Buffalo, Pittsburgh and then Youngstown) I moved to Columbus 46 years ago to attend the Ohio State University. While in school, I served as a page in the Ohio House of Representatives, starting me on a career in public service. After graduating from The Ohio State University and Capital Law School, I spent 30 years as legal counsel for public entities such as The Ohio State University, the Rickenbacker Port Authority, the State Personnel Board of Review and the Ohio Attorney General. I retired from the practice of law several years ago. I have been a member of St. Mark's for about eight years. I was a member of the Vestry from 2016 to 2019. Currently, I Co-chair the Outreach Committee. I am also on the Flower Guild and a member of both the St. Mark's knitting group and the St. Mark's book group.

## YOUTH WARDEN

### HENRY M.



## VESTRY NOMINEES

### CHERYL BOOP



My name is Cheryl Boop. I am a pediatric occupational therapist at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where I am a clinical lead for the OT, PT, and Speech Therapists who work in Homecare. My husband, David, and I have been members of Saint Mark's since we moved to Columbus in August, 2013. We live in Grove City. I am a member of the choir at Saint Mark's. I served as a representative to the Diocesan Convention this past November. I am excited for the opportunities ahead of us as Saint Mark's welcomes its new rector! I am the daughter of a minister and a church organist/choir director. I have Outreach Committee. I am also on the Flower Guild and a member of both the St. Mark's knitting group and the St. Mark's book group.

### JULIA JOHNSON-DAVIS



Julia, her husband Scott, and daughter (Charlotte) have been members of Saint Mark's since 2014, enjoying the neighborly feel of St Marks as well as the music and youth programs. Julia is a cradle Episcopalian, raised in San Antonio, Texas, received her BA at Austin College in Sherman, Texas and MBA at University of Texas at Austin, then moving to Columbus in 2003. She serves on the 2nd Sunday coffee hour team and volunteered with VBS, and Charlotte is in the Canterbury Choir. Julia is the Director of Financial Planning & Analysis at the Wasserstrom Company. Scott teaches math at Olentangy Liberty High School, and Charlotte is in fifth grade at Tremont Elementary in Upper Arlington.

### ROMAN SKORACKI



Roman, together with his wife Laura and their two sons Lukas and Alexander have been members of Saint Mark's since 2015 shortly after moving to Columbus. While he has enjoyed participating in worship and helped in and around the church, he has not held an official office at St Mark's. Laura has served on the vestry and both Lukas and Alexander were members of the Canterbury choir and Lukas has since moved on to the adult choir. During weekdays Roman is a professor at the Ohio State University within the Department of Plastic Surgery with most of his time spent at the James, performing reconstructive surgery for cancer patients. He hopes that he will be able to contribute to the St. Mark's community especially in this time of transition.

### SAM SLEE



Sam is a graduate of Georgetown College in Political Science and Business Administration and was married to Nancy Brothers at Saint Mark's. Together, Sam and Nancy have one son, Eric, who recently graduated from The University of Cincinnati. Sam has been a member of Saint Mark's Choir for nearly 19 years, and has also served as a Vestry member, verger, lay reader, chalice bearer, and as head of the acolyte program. He looks forward to once again being involved with Vestry!

## 2020 Results and 2021 Budget Narrative

February 2, 2021

### **Review of 2020**

2020 was a difficult year in many ways. When we put together the budget, much was uncertain. We knew that our Rector, Paul St. Germain, would be retiring. We knew that Associate Rector Christopher Richardson would likely be moving on to his next challenge before the arrival of a new Rector, but we did not know when that would occur. We also knew that our Organist, Tyler Robertson was seeking a fulltime position. So, we put together a budget based on our best guess of what the year would bring. When those uncertainties were clarified during the year, we ended up with significantly lower staff expense than anticipated.

The reduced staff expense was a blessing with the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on our income. Literally overnight we lost about \$500 per month in plate offerings, and \$2,850 per month in rental income from the Junior Explorer's program. Pledge collections were also negatively affected. Thankfully, we received a large, unexpected donation from a current pledging member and several other generous members gave more than they pledged. As a result, we were just \$13,500 below our budget for pledged giving.

We were fortunate to receive a significant gift from a member who moved out of town as well as a bequest from Beverley Rawles. In December we were blessed with a \$50,000 gift from the estate of our dear, long time member Martha Wheeler. Those gifts are not reflected in our income statement, but were used to add \$84,274 to our Major Projects Fund and donate \$5,000 each to NNEMAP and the Open Shelter in December. As I have mentioned before in my annual reports, the Lord continues to bless us with unexpected gifts when they are most needed.

The net effect of all the above would have resulted in our net income being slightly above breakeven for the year, however, we had exceptional unrealized capital gains in our Endowment Fund of \$48,163 and about \$10,000 realized by closing some old unused funds. As a result, we had a gain from operations in 2020 of \$63,650 before depreciation or any audit adjustments.

### **2021 Budget**

Planning for 2021 is almost as difficult as it was for 2020. We can only guess when we will be able to resume normal operations. It is uncertain when we will find a new Rector or a permanent Organist. We do know that our pledged member donations are roughly \$48,000 lower than last year and that we will likely not have the Junior Explorer's rental income until at least September, if ever.

Just as in 2020 our staff expense should be lower. Our budget anticipates a new Rector arriving in August and we have planned to have a permanent Organist by then also. It is clear however that an Associate Rector is not a luxury we will be able to afford for the foreseeable future.

Our Administrative Expense budget includes extraordinary expenses of \$3,000 for website updates, \$3,000 of Rector search expenses and \$15,000 in relocation expenses when we call our next Rector. The CPA who has done our audit for many years has retired and we have a verbal quote roughly double the \$6,400 we have been paying for our audit. Our budget is based on the assumption that we will return to normal operations on September 1<sup>st</sup> so we expect our facilities expenses to be lower than normal until then. Worship expense is budgeted a few thousand dollars higher than the 2020 budget with the added expense of faster, more reliable internet and other fees related to software to live stream our services over the internet.

**Conclusion** – While the decline in pledged revenue concerns me, we have no debt, are blessed to have had two years in a row building up surpluses, and have significant funds set aside to support future unanticipated repairs and/or major projects. Our blessings are many, thanks be to God! I look forward to seeing you all in church sometime in 2021!

*Respectfully submitted - Phil Glandon, Treasurer*

**2020 Financial Statement and 2021 Proposed Budget - 1/31/2021**

	<u><b>Proposed</b></u>		
	<u><b>2021 Budget</b></u>	<u><b>2020 Actual</b></u>	<u><b>2020 Budget</b></u>
<u><b>REVENUES:</b></u>			
Member Contributions - pledged	\$ 400,000	\$ 446,498	\$ 460,000
Plate & non-pledge receipts	63,500	70,434	47,500
Investment Earnings	20,000	56,545	12,000
Rent & Outside Groups	17,800	26,632	46,500
Self-Sustaining Fund Reimbursements	-	5,000	5,000
Other		10,014	
Utilization of Prior Year Surplus	2,712		30,000
Total Revenue	\$ 504,012	\$ 615,123	\$ 601,000
<u><b>EXPENSES:</b></u>			
Staff Payroll Expenses	254,002	312,209	353,173
Administration	77,340	52,861	51,190
Facilities	80,484	95,301	94,000
Outreach	6,600	7,031	6,600
Diocesan Mission Share	76,000	75,637	78,000
Christian Formation	1,000	846	3,200
Fellowship & Hospitality	1,876	1,800	5,700
Music	2,190	1,677	2,000
Stewardship & Member Care	520	403	850
Worship	4,000	3,708	1,750
Total Disbursements	\$ 504,012	\$ 551,473	\$ 596,463
Net income (deficit)	\$ -	\$ 63,650	\$ 4,537

## Senior Warden Report

Each year brings with it both the familiar and the new—challenges, opportunities and blessings, among other things—and our shared life together as part of the Saint Mark’s community is no different.

At last year’s annual meeting when our rector, the Rev. Dr. Paul St. Germain, announced his plan to retire in 2020, Saint Mark’s members knew there were changes ahead. However, we couldn’t fully anticipate the ways our lives (both inside and outside Saint Mark’s) would be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

First of all, our parish members have been patient with limited building access and technology hiccups and have embraced the previously un-imaginable: Lenten worship and Children and Adult Formation via “Zoom,” “drive-by” farewell events for Paul, Christopher and Tyler, “socially distanced” pumpkin carvings, “virtual” fellowship gatherings and supper groups, and a “virtual” Christmas pageant and Christmas Eve service. So many extra efforts have been made to remain connected with each other and to assist those in need at this time, by so many, I can’t begin to list them all. Even when we were able to resume celebrating Eucharist, if the public health advisory status was unfavorable for indoor Eucharist, we celebrated outside. Whether it was 31 degrees and snowing on November 1 or 70 degrees the following weekend, we embraced the opportunity to gather.



### Stewardship of Saint Mark’s Campus:

Whether worship was inside or out, Saint Mark’s doors were open to our support groups, who were grateful for safe places to gather for healing. Even with reduced occupancy, our beautiful and aging campus requires ongoing attention. We appreciate the efforts of volunteers who have contributed to this work, including Collin Wheeler, Sam Slee, and Dave Yeager. The receipt of the generous Muskoff bequest in 2019 made it possible to continue improvement that began last year. The following lists the more significant of the improvements that have occurred, but is by no means all-inclusive:

• Painting	\$15,505
• HVAC thermostats, actuators, mapping, etc.	\$10,075
• Replaced boiler valves	\$ 5,971
• Roofing repairs to downspouts	\$ 2,437
• Exterior drainage improvements	\$ 2,300
• Altar carpeting replacement	\$ 1,879
• Nave doors	\$ 1,281
• Information technology – network infrastructure	\$ 8,295

Major improvements to our audio visual capabilities were also made possible from the Muskoff bequest. Demmer Solutions was selected to install additional cameras, microphones and a centralized computer, housed in a “studio” in the sacristy, at a cost of approximately \$45,000.

In addition to these building improvements, and with thanks to the generosity of a former Eagle Scout, work on the Butterfly Garden continued with the addition of an irrigation system, which also covers the Tremont lawn, at a cost of \$6,425. We are grateful for the “socially distanced” volunteer work of Ellen Berndt and Scott, CJ and Peter Milburn.

### **Celebration of Ministry:**

It might be easy to take for granted all the volunteer efforts that make Saint Mark’s such an inviting, welcoming community. I could fill the entire annual report with a list of all of those many contributions, but would like to recognize a few who are stepping down from some long-term ministries:

- Diane Hartney, Flower Guild
- Pat Iams, Trustee
- David Boop, Vestry
- Pam Thurston, Vestry
- Jay Wilcox, Vestry

### **Search Committee:**

Likewise, we are grateful for the ongoing work of our Search Committee:

- Elizabeth Anstaett, Chair
- Scott Milburn, Vice Chair
- Anice Ellis, Vestry Liaison
- Betsy Gillespie, Michele Johnson, Barb Keyes, Dan Morton and Gloria Wylie

To date, a parish survey and focus groups have been conducted. A parish profile and other documents needed to advertise the rector vacancy are actively under development at this time.

We have also been blessed with the ministry of the Rev. C. Christopher “Chris” Thompson. He has been generous with sharing his over 40 years of experience as we dream about the future of Saint Mark’s and our role in our community and world.

At this time of many transitions, Saint Mark’s is truly blessed with many members with different gifts.

*Submitted by Dot Yeager*

# Music Department's 2020 Annual Report

It is likely no exaggeration to say that 2020 was the most challenging year in the history of Saint Mark's. The emergence of a once-in-a-century pandemic, coupled with significant staffing transitions, has left us all disoriented, disrupting our sense of community, throwing us out of our routines, and forcing us to reimagine the ways in which we interact both with the church and as the church. This was particularly true for the music program. Ensemble music, after all, is fundamentally a social activity, a product of people coming together to create something larger than themselves. How do you carry on as church musicians in a period of masks and social distancing?

The year began with its usual promise. January featured our Epiphany-themed Taizé service as well as the Canterbury Choir's annual Super Bowl Subs fundraiser. In February, Saint Mark's hosted a special concert by The Ohio State University Symphonic Choir, which featured our Organist and Assistant Director of Music Tyler Robertson as Assistant Conductor. In the waning days of February, the Saint Mark's Choir helped observe Ash Wednesday, followed by a beautiful service of Choral Evensong on the first weekend of March, with music by Orlando Gibbons, Jamie Hitel, Felix Mendelssohn, and Stephen Paulus. The same weekend, the Canterbury Choir traveled to Cleveland for the second straight year to participate in Treblefest, an annual celebration of children's church choirs held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The combined choirs concluded the event with a service of Choral Evensong, singing music by Edward Bairstow, Peter Hurford, John Ireland, and Todd Wilson.

A little over a week later, everything changed. With reports of community spread of COVID-19 in Ohio, both public worship and choral activities were suspended. For the first several weeks of the pandemic, worship leaders met at the church to livestream the principal Sunday service via Facebook Live. As conditions worsened, however, the diocese mandated a suspension of all in-person worship, leading us to begin worshipping via Zoom on Palm Sunday in early April. We found creative ways to continue to supply music for these Zoom services over the next two months. Tyler prerecorded his organ voluntaries, first on his practice organ at home and later, when it was permitted, on the organ at the church. Matt provided weekly chanting of the psalm live via Zoom. For the Feast of Pentecost in late May, the staff singers prepared our first virtual choir project, featuring Thomas Tallis's "If Ye Love Me." Meanwhile, the Canterbury Choir's planned trip to Washington, D. C., in April was rescheduled, first to 2021 and then to 2022.

In early June, worship leaders were able to resume live-streaming the service from the church. We began to use an iPad app called Switcher Studio, in conjunction with several iPhone cameras, to stream the service over Facebook Live with multiple camera angles. This allowed us to resume live organ music (which did not work well over Zoom) during services. We remained cautious about live singing, however, in the face of concerns about singing and virus transmission. Throughout the summer, chanted music was prerecorded in the choir room for broadcast during the service.

In late June, we said goodbye to our rector, Paul St. Germain. In honor of the occasion, the full choir (as well as numerous choir alums) prepared a virtual choir presentation of Paul's favorite hymn, "The Church's one foundation" (Aurelia). Just two weeks later, we bade farewell to Associate Rector Christopher Richardson. The service included virtual solo presentations of two of Christopher's favorite hymns, "There is a balm in Gilead" (sung by Margaret Wells) and "Lift every voice and sing" (sung by former staff singer Jaman Dunn).

The summer and fall also proved to be a time of great change and transition for the music program at Saint Mark's. In August, we were thrilled to celebrate the hard work of Tyler Robertson when he officially graduated as a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from The Ohio State University. A couple weeks later, our hearts were heavy to learn that Tyler had accepted an exciting call to be the new Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church (Episcopal) in Glendale, OH. Tyler's last Sunday at Saint Mark's was October 11. Tyler served Saint Mark's with distinction from his arrival in 2014, significantly enriching both our worship and parish life, and he and his family will be greatly missed.

Following Tyler's departure, Saint Mark's was blessed with the ministry of retired organist Ron Kenreich, who stepped in to play for Sunday services through the end of December. At the same time, we engaged organist Robert Wisniewski (formerly of St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus until his retirement in 2017) to record a series of virtual choir accompaniments for both choirs for the months of November and December. We are thrilled that Robert has agreed to serve as Interim Organist for the first half of 2021 as we undertake a search for the next Organist at Saint Mark's.

In the last months of 2020, we experienced a fair amount of evolution in our practice of pandemic worship at Saint Mark's. We enjoyed a brief period of in-person worship in late September and early October, until worsening conditions in the state required us to return to live-stream only for the remainder of the calendar year. In early October, we resumed some limited live singing for Sunday services, welcoming a solo cantor back to chant the Psalm and the Alleluia from the chapel and to sing the opening and closing hymn with the organ. With the arrival of Advent at the end of November, we were excited to debut a new system of cameras and microphones for live-streaming services. This robust technology now allows us to capture audio and video from any place in the church, including the nave, chancel, narthex, or chapel, enabling us to share the beauty and richness of our services with viewers throughout the world, both now during the pandemic and going forward into the future. I am grateful to Mark Drew for all the time and effort that he has put in to make this new system a reality at Saint Mark's.

With the holidays approaching, both choirs ramped up for a series of virtual choir projects, with particular focus on Advent and Christmas Eve. Our staff singers prepared a presentation of Tomás Luis de Victoria's "O quam gloriosum" for All Saints Day, when we usually would enjoy a special service of Choral Evensong. A couple weeks later, the full choir presented Charles Villiers Stanford's anthem "O for a Closer Walk." In lieu of our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols in early December, the Saint Mark's Choir prepared several Advent hymns usually sung during that service for broadcast during Sunday morning services in Advent.

For Christmas Eve, the choirs prepared an ambitious slate of virtual choir presentations for broadcast during a single Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. The Saint Mark's Choir recorded renditions of the carols "O come, all ye faithful," "Silent Night," and "Hark! the herald angels sing." They also sang the exquisite anthem "In dulci jubilo" by Robert Pearsall. The Canterbury Choir, meanwhile, prepared all the musical components of their traditional Christmas Pageant, complete with carol verses, anthems, and solos. The pageant recording included scripture readings by members of the youth group and photographs of Sunday school participants dressed as shepherds and angels. The entire service was deeply moving, and I am profoundly grateful to everyone who helped to make it possible.

As we reflect on the challenging and unprecedented year that has passed, I am heartened by the resiliency and creativity that has been shown by so many in order to continue the work of our parish. I know that we are all looking ahead with longing and hope for the return of some semblance of normalcy in the year ahead, to a time when we can gather again as a community for worship, complete with stirring hymns, thrilling anthems, and soaring organ music.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Matthew Bester  
Director of Music*

# Endowment Fund

## 2021 Annual Meeting Report from the Endowment Trustees

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund during 2020 were: Dan Morton (chair), Phil Glandon (treasurer), Jeff Porterfield, Pat Iams, and Jill Hinton.

The Trustees met twice during the year, in April and in September, to review the Endowment Fund investments, which are held at The Columbus Foundation.

At December 31, 2020, the total principal and income balance of the Endowment Fund invested in the account at The Columbus Foundation was \$362,607.33. This account had realized and unrealized capital gains \$48,163.24 during 2020. This account also paid \$9,935.00 in income to the Parish during 2020.

Thanks to each of the Trustees for their service this past year.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Dan Morton, Endowment Trustees Chair*

## Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

### Endowment Fund Report

For the 12 Months Ended 12/31/20

<b>Total Value of Endowment as of 12/31/19</b>	<b>\$ 319,421.58</b>
<b><u>2020 Activity</u></b>	
Distribution of income to Saint Marks Operating Fund	(9,935.00)
Realized & Unrealized Capital Gains & (Losses)	48,163.24
Investment Income	6,179.61
Admin. & Investment Fees	(1,222.10)
<b>Net Change YTD</b>	<b>43,185.75</b>
<b>Total Value of Endowment Fund at The Cols. Found. @ 12/31/20</b>	<b>\$ 362,607.33</b>



# Stewardship Report

Legacy Giving. In 2019 we began planning a Saint Mark's Legacy Giving initiative to communicate the need for legacy gifts, to encourage such gifts in parishioners' estate planning, and to provide information on financial vehicles offering advantages to givers and Saint Mark's. Like so many things in 2020, our plans to roll out this initiative were frustrated by restrictions of the pandemic. As a workaround, we have posted Legacy Planning material on the stewardship area of the Saint Mark's website, and we hope we can begin face-to-face meetings with parishioners later in 2021.

Website Update. Last summer, we refreshed and reorganized the stewardship section of the Saint Mark's website. The online giving interface was streamlined to incorporate the ShelbyGiving payment processor and a printable pledge form was added so pledges can be submitted any time during the year without a pledge card.

Financial Stewardship - Annual Pledge Drive. When "Faith-Filled Generosity" was chosen as the theme for this year's stewardship campaign, none of us could have known what 2020 would bring. During the brief resumption of in-person worship in October, we launched an abbreviated, two-week pledge campaign and pledges have continued to be received through the end of 2020. As of January 15th, we had received 104 pledges for a total of \$387,054, approximately 89% of the total pledged in last year's campaign. Thirty-six of the 104 pledgers increased their pledges over last year and seven of the 104 are new pledgers!

We once again express our gratitude for the efforts and support of our Treasurer, Phil Glandon, who consistently brings clarity, transparency, and management discipline to the financial condition of our parish.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who have pledged your financial support to Saint Mark's. For those who have not yet made a pledge, there is still time to help us reduce that 11% gap. To obtain a pledge form with submission instructions, go to Saint Mark's website at [www.saintmarkscolumbus.org](http://www.saintmarkscolumbus.org), select "Stewardship" from the main menu, and click the link provided under "Stewardship Pledge Campaign 2021."

*Respectfully Submitted by Jay Wilcox*

# Formation, Children and Youth Report 2020

Children and Youth Formation underwent major transitions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will briefly describe formation before COVID and focus most of our discussion on the remote programming we developed during the pandemic. We're looking forward with great anticipation to the day we can return to in-person worship and formation. At the same time, we have had many blessed moments and lessons learned during remote formation that will enrich our formation programming when we are able to return. Remote formation allows forms of inclusion and connection and prayer together that we hope to continue into the new normal.

## Pre-COVID Formation

**Sunday School:** Sunday School for children in preschool through fifth grade met at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday during the school year, except on the first Sundays when the children's choir sang in the worship service. At 9:30 a.m. there is fellowship for children whose parents are involved in adult formation.

**Godly Play:** Children aged 3-5 years attend Godly Play taught by Laura Skoracki and Irina Reed. Godly Play presents parables and sacred stories using wooden figures, simple language, and liturgical action to help children become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

**Children's Chapel:** Children in the 1st through 5th grade are taught by Joanne Drew and Catherine Davis. The children begin the Children's Chapel service with a hymn led by Dr. Bester followed by a teacher-led, age-appropriate retelling of that week's gospel story, interactive discussion, and hands-on craft. Afterward, the children process with the Children's Cross into the nave during the offertory anthem to join their families for participation in The Holy Communion.

**Nursery:** The nursery was a place bustling with the activity of infants and toddlers. Roberta Morton runs the nursery and schedule with the help of several volunteer parents/grandparents and paid teen-agers. Visitors and new members commonly make use of this service, fostering inclusion and welcoming.

**Youth Group:** Children in grades 6-12 are eligible for the St. Mark's Youth Group. Youth engage in a range of activities including discussion, games, outreach, and excursions. Before Covid, youth contributed significantly to worship at St. Mark's, with a large group of youth acolytes and youth members of the St. Mark's Choir.

**Children and Youth at Wonderful Wednesdays at St. Mark's:** Dinners and fellowship took place every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30pm during the school year with activities for children, youth, and adults. We were able to have a Fat Tuesday dinner and start the the psyanka Easter egg craft before the pandemic shut down. Father Christopher, Dan Morton, Roberta Morton, Laura Skoracki, Joanne Drew, Jim Keyes, Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, and others contributed to formation activities. Fathers Paul and Christopher gave the children and youth with the blessed responsibility of leading a Compline service to close each evening. About 15-20 adults and 10 children regularly attended pre-COVID.

## Remote Formation

Following the Bishop's guidelines, the 2020-2021 program year has been entirely remote so far. Children and youth formation meet via Zoom every Sunday given that we don't have our usual first Sunday alternatives under remote church. Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt and David Markwardt manage the Zoom session. Children gather via Zoom at 9:45 a.m. for greeting. At 10 a.m. all children join in a song led by formation teachers and Jim Keyes. We follow the Episcopal Church Safe Church guidelines and two adults in each break-out session. Some weeks we will combine age groups together depending on the week's lesson. We end before 10:30 so that children and youth may join the 10:30 church service. Most Sundays, the group joins separate break out rooms into age-appropriate sessions:

**Godly Play** (preschool and kindergarten): Laura Skoracki along with parents and Irina Reed presents the Godly Play stories and parables over zoom. There are two to four students in the Godly Play class.

**Children's Chapel** (first-fifth grade): Joanne Drew along with Catherine Davis and Jim Keyes discuss the lesson for the week. Lesson plans are primarily based on the series, "Lesson Plans That Work," published by The Episcopal Church. The children begin with the lighting of the altar candles and a hymn previously recorded by a chorister of Saint Mark's or the Canterbury Choirs. Sometimes the children do crafts or related activities.. Currently there is an average weekly attendance of 5-7.

**Youth Group** (sixth grade-high school) Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt along with David Markwardt meet with the youth most Sunday mornings at the same time and on the same Zoom as Children's Formation. Youth meet in their own break-out room and have played games, formed a closed discord group for fellowship, and planned their outreach project for Spring 2021. There are six to ten youth attending.

**Socially Distanced Pumpkin Carving:** With the sponsorship of the Marksmen we held socially distanced outdoor pumpkin carving on the Saint Mark's lawn on the last Sunday of October. Families carved on separate blankets. All were masked but there was still lots of conversation and laughter and fellowship.

**2020 Remote Christmas Pageant:** We were blessed to have a remote Christmas pageant. Irina Reed led the remote pageant as she has in prior years and encouraged children and youth participation through pictures and videos. Dr. Matthew Bester facilitated in creating a beautiful worship service through editing and integrating the pictures and videos. Irina Reed invited families to send in pictures of their children as angels and shepherds. More than twenty children and youth performed roles in the pageant, including the Canterbury Choir, children who were angels and shepherds, and youth readers. All were delighted with the creativity and inventiveness of families and children in putting together costumes and pictures!

**Looking ahead:** We will continue to hold remote formation this program year. We will also have a confirmation class in 2021. We already have more than ten youth considering confirmation and participating in classes with Father Chris.

**Reflection on the blessings of remote formation:** We are blessed by the energy and creativity of our formation teachers, especially our lead Children's Chapel and Godly Play teachers, Joanne Drew and Laura Skoracki. We are so blessed with all those joyfully assisting. We are blessed by the energy and patience of our children, youth and families. Children sing along, ask questions, crack jokes, and pray together. Youth share the challenges of this time, support each other, talk about how to help all those more needy than us, and dream plans for the future including when we can be back together. Families find the zoom link (even when the email gets blocked as spam!), get to formation even with sleepy and hungry kids, and lovingly tolerate all the various technical glitches. Joanne Drew lights a candle at the beginning of every session and then puts the candle out at the end. She says "The light reminds us of God's presence in the world. As we watch the light change, we no longer see it in one place. Now it is in every place – all around and inside of us." We all feel that light as we leave to join Church full of joy and gratitude despite the challenges we face.

**Connections:** The Zoom link for children and youth formation is available on the Church calendar and also sent out in a weekly email to children and youth formation families. We welcome all who are interested in being added to the list and joining formation activities to contact us at [formation1@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:formation1@saintmarkscolumbus.org).

*Respectfully submitted by Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt and Irina Reed, Vestry Formation Members*

# Outreach 2020

## A most unusual year

Normally, St. Mark's Outreach ministry includes

- monthly in-person meetings at which everyone is welcome, and
- a great deal of hands-on work by parish members, both individually and in organized projects.

Since March 8, 2020 all meetings have been on Zoom, and social distancing rules have eliminated many chances for hands-on volunteering. *E.g.*, cancelling our annual Labor Day Bake Sale and pre-Christmas Cookie Walk meant a sad loss of opportunities for fellowship as well as fundraising. At the same time we've been blessed with some exceptional financial gifts, which we have used to help allay harms caused by the pandemic.

## Funding – Amounts received and spent

### Beginning Budget Balance\*

\$46,784\*

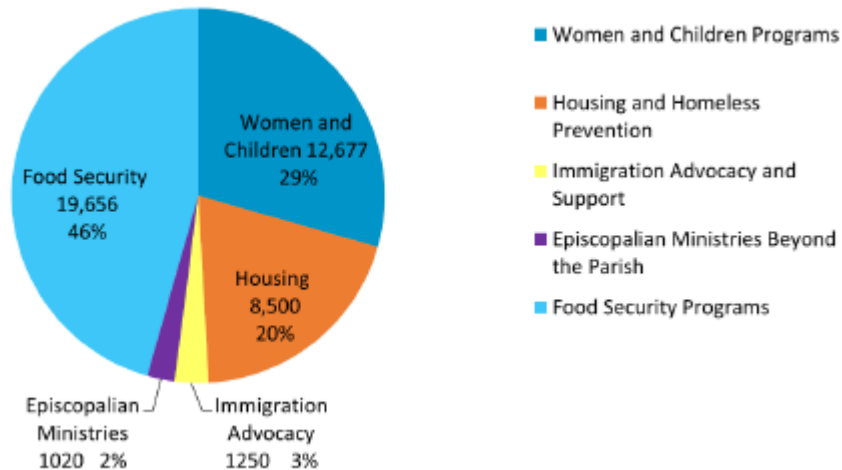
\*2020 beginning balance was larger than normal due to a \$33,000 bequest designated for Outreach in late 2019.

### Income Received in 2020

Vestry annual budget appropriation	\$6,600
Donations earmarked for Outreach	7,899
Vestry designation of a portion of a large bequest for Outreach	10,000
Interest on a certificate of deposit	<u>431</u>
Total received in 2020	\$24,930

### Expenditures in 2020

	Percentage of Budget	Dollar Amount
Food Security Programs	46%	\$19,655.59
Women and Children Programs	29%	12,627.31
Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs	20%	8,500.00
Immigration Advocacy and Support	3%	1,250.00
Episcopal Ministries Beyond the Parish	<u>2%</u>	<u>1,020.20</u>
Total spent in 2020	100%	\$43,053.10



### Programs Making Up Each Category

- **Food Security Programs**
  - NNEMAP Food Pantry
  - St. John's "His Place" dinners
  - St. John's Street Church lunches
- **Women and Children Programs**
  - Layette Program at Trinity Church, McArthur
  - Women Affirming Women, respite retreat
  - School Supplies
  - Human Trafficking Survivors (She Has a Name, CATCH and FREEDOM)
  - Giving Tree and Adopt a Family Christmas Programs
- **Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs**
  - Open Shelter
  - Habitat for Humanity
- **Immigration Advocacy and Support**
  - CRIS- Community Refugee and Immigration Services
  - Artisans Beyond Borders
  - Episcopal Migration Services
- **Support of Episcopal Ministries Beyond the Parish**
  - United Thank Offering
  - Episcopal Relief and Development
  - St. John's Church, presence + ministry in Franklinton

# Saint Mark's Parish Statistics 2020

	2020	2019	<u>2018</u>
MEMBERS REPORTED PRIOR YEAR	795	796	797
INCREASES (INCLUDES TRANSFERS, BAPTISMS)	14	7	6
DECREASES (INCLUDES TRANSFERS, DEATHS)	24	8	7
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE BAPTISED MEMBERS</b>	<b><u>785</u></b>	<b><u>795</u></b>	<b><u>796</u></b>
COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING:			
ADULTS (AGE 16 AND OVER)	278	371	303
YOUTH (UNDER AGE 16)	82	67	69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>360</u></b>	<b><u>438</u></b>	<b><u>372</u></b>
AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	142	140	150
EASTER ATTENDANCE	*	465	455
NUMBER OF SERVICES:			
SUNDAY EUCHARIST	27	116	115
WEEKDAY EUCHARIST (PUBLIC)	7	82	82
PRIVATE EUCHARIST	8	*	*
OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES - IN PERSON	12	5	5
OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES - ONLINE	36		
OTHER WEEKDAY SERVICES	13	5	5
MARRIAGES	0	4	2
BURIALS	11	5	11
BAPTISMS	1	3	6
CONFIRMATIONS/RECEPTIONS	0	0	10
<b>TOTAL CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>

\* Data not available

# SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



2151 DORSET ROAD • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43221 • (614) 486-9452

[info@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:info@saintmarkscolumbus.org) • [www.saintmarkscolumbus.org](http://www.saintmarkscolumbus.org)

## Staff:

The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson,  
*Transitional Priest-in-Charge*  
Dr. Matthew Bester, *Director of Music*  
Robert Wisniewski, *Interim Organist*  
Gary L. Garber, *Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus*  
Dr. Michael Murray, *Organist Emeritus*  
Bill Silliman, *Head Verger*  
Melanie Jacobs, *Office Manager*

## Ministers:

The Entire Saint Mark's Family

## Mission Statement:

*As a Christ-centered community, the people of Saint Mark's seek a world in which all people share the joy of loving God and each other by...*

- Celebrating worship together with inspiring words, music and traditions
- Serving all of our neighbors
- Engaging in fellowship and hospitality
- Encouraging people in their lifelong spiritual formation
- Being a beacon of Christ's presence in the world

## Vestry Members:

Dot Yeager, *Senior Warden*  
Mark Drew, *Junior Warden*  
Henry M., *Youth Warden*  
Jay Wilcox, *Stewardship*  
David Boop, *Outreach*  
Pam Thurston, *Outreach*  
Irina Reed, *Formation*  
Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, *Formation*  
Marilyn Karl, *Member Connection*  
Jay Iams, *Member Connection*  
Anice Ellis, *Search Committee Liaison*  
Judith Grant, *Parish Life*  
Bill Mayr, *Communications*  
Phil Glandon, *Treasurer*  
Barbara Hyre, *Clerk*

CONNECT WITH SAINT MARK'S!



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK:  
[facebook.com/saintmarkscolumbus](https://facebook.com/saintmarkscolumbus)



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:  
[@saintmarkscols](https://twitter.com/saintmarkscols)

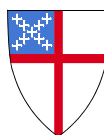
## Who We Are:



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 is a member of the Episcopal Church in the United States – a community of 2.4 million members in 114 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. *Episcopal* means a church with bishops. Bishops are the leaders of the church and spiritual descendants of the apostles of Jesus Christ. We are also part of the worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of 82 million members in more than 160 countries. *Anglican* are those churches who trace their history to the Church of England.



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