

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 DORSET RD.
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43221



PARISH PROFILE



ANCIENT FAITH, OPEN MIND

LIVING OUT OUR MISSION

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church is a mature congregation located in the inner-ring Columbus, Ohio, suburb of Upper Arlington. As our mission, we seek to support and empower one another to reach out as the hands, heart and voice of Christ, responding as stewards of life's gifts.

Established in 1951, Saint Mark's has been blessed by the leadership of six rectors in its nearly 70-year history. Congregants are seeking an engaging leader to minister to the pastoral needs of all Saint Mark's parishioners and walk with us into a changing future.



SAINT MARK'S





FOUNDED IN 1951, THRIVING TODAY

Saint Mark's Episcopal Mission held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in nearby Grandview Heights. Ground was broken on the current site in Upper Arlington in 1953 for the Parish Hall, now the Center for Christian Formation and Godly Play. Services were held here until completion of the current Nave and Sanctuary in 1958. An adjacent building was purchased in 1989 providing office and meeting space, and major renovations of the facility in 2004 and 2008 created a campus that inspires Christ's ministry within our midst and beyond.

In its first 30 years, the church had two rectors and was very active with church programs: Sunday school, youth groups, choirs, scouts, softball leagues, and women's auxiliary to name a few. Outreach programs such as sponsoring refugee families, providing dinners, and community projects began.

In the last 40 years, Saint Mark's has had 4 more rectors, at times associate/assistant rectors, and for many years a deacon.

Two Sunday Eucharistic services are offered weekly as well as periodic special services such as Evensong and Morning Prayer.

The church is extremely active with outreach including NNEMAP Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Migrations Ministry, and CATCH Court (a court-diversion program for trafficked women). During the week, AA and Al Anon groups use the building. In-reach includes an active Stephen Ministry, member care, a prayer ministry, a program on diversity partnered with several other churches, hospitality, youth activities, and social gatherings. Weekly educational formation programs are provided for youth and adults.

Saint Mark's is also blessed with a strong music program, with excellent choirs for children and adults. A world-class organ and special performances throughout the year are hallmarks of the parish's worship through music. The parish is an active, caring, and welcoming group of people seeking to do its part to follow in Christ's footsteps in the church, the community and the world.

WORSHIP

The sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is at the center of our service, and unites us with Christ as His church in a mystical way beyond human understanding.

Sunday

- 8 a.m.: Eucharist Rite I
- 10:30 a.m.: Eucharist Rite II with choir (September to May)

Wednesday

- Noon: Eucharist Rite II with healing and laying on of hands

We offer special services throughout the church year at Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.

We also celebrate Blessing of the Animals, Blessing of the Backpacks and Beating of the Bounds. Special choral services include Evensong and Advent Lessons & Carols.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, services moved online and outdoors.

Worship at Saint Mark's is strongly supported by parish guilds and ministers, including Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes and Vergers, Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers and Ushers.



YOUTH

The children of Saint Mark's are at home in our church. Represented on Vestry by the Youth Warden, our youngest members are embraced, supported and, importantly, protected by diligent practice of “Safe Church” policies.

Formation currently meets every Sunday via Zoom during the school year. Age-appropriate sessions include Godly Play (preschool and kindergarten), Children’s Chapel (first-fifth grade), and Youth Group (sixth grade-high school).

In addition to youth-specific activities, Saint Mark's members celebrate fellowship across generations. Parishioners treasure these opportunities and will embrace a rector who fosters the growth of our community through fellowship.



Our Sisters in Faith group chooses books of spiritual and current significance to study. We continue to search out the best times to meet and topics of interest for adult formation as we seek to understand and fulfill our role as followers of Christ.



MUSIC AT SAINT MARK'S

Music plays a vital role in the liturgy and community of Saint Mark's. When asked what makes their church special, parishioners mention the Saint Mark's Choir, Canterbury Choir (for children ages 7 to 14), the Casavant organ, and the long tradition of musical excellence.

In a typical year, Saint Mark's maintains an active series of special services and concerts, including services of Choral Evensong and our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols.

In recent years, the annual music series has included appearances by the Ohio State University Choirs and Capella San Marco, and organists Kevin Jones, Tyler Robertson and Bradley Hunter Welch. In addition to performances at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. and St. Thomas on Fifth Avenue in New York City, the choir has served residencies at two prominent cathedrals in England—Worcester Cathedral in 2012 and Lincoln Cathedral in 2015. It is planning on serving as choir-in-residence at Wells Cathedral, England, in 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic did not deter Saint Mark's musicians; traditions, including the annual Christmas pageant, continued to play a central role in online worship services.

The Saint Mark's organ originally was built in 1987 by Casavant Frères of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, as their Opus 3616. The organ was enlarged by Casavant in 2016, and now comprises 35 stops, 41 ranks, and 2,450 pipes.





OUTREACH

Saint Mark's has a variety of outreach efforts where members support the local community and the less-fortunate members within it. Members often support meals in the low-income community served by Saint John's Episcopal Church in the Franklinton section of Columbus, mentor women seeking to overcome sex-trafficking and addiction as participants in a court diversion program, and volunteer in various ways with a large, metro-area food pantry.

Members also support a program that provides weekend "respite" services for women who otherwise wouldn't be able to enjoy them and, closer to home, have made Saint Mark's "free water and bakery sale" tent a regular fixture in front of the church during the Upper Arlington Labor Day Art Festival.

Outreach efforts also stretch beyond Central Ohio. Saint Mark's partners with an Episcopal parish in Appalachian Southeast Ohio to sew and knit baby clothes, blankets, shawls and other items for new mothers in this underserved, low-income region. Other parishioners join in Saint Mark's work with a coalition of local churches supporting Habitat for Humanity.

Recently, in response to the nation's immigration crisis, parishioners launched a migration ministry, led by a member who winters in southern Arizona, to explore ways of supporting needs of migrants on both sides of the border. Parishioners also are active in a multi-church dialogue on social justice, addressing the continuing racial tension in our country. That these and other efforts were launched and remain led by lay members speaks to the innate commitment that Saint Mark's parishioners have for carrying out Christ's call to love all of our neighbors.



Outreach Activities include

St. John's Town Street Church: Preparing and Serving Meals

Layette Ministry with Trinity McArthur

My Brother's Closet with Columbus Urban League

CATCH Court Mentoring

Women Affirming Women

NNEMAP Food Pantry

Sacred Conversations for Social Justice

Habitat for Humanity

Migration Ministry

Annual Labor Day Bake Sale During Upper Arlington Arts Festival





MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP

The Saint Mark's community cares for one another in rich and diverse ways. Ministries include one-on-one support, small groups, organized fellowship and casual social opportunities. Members consider Saint Mark's like family; gatherings across generations are especially popular with members of all ages.

Specific Inreach Ministries and Fellowship opportunities include Stephen Ministry, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Member Care Meals, Sisters in Faith, Mark's Men, Contemplative Prayer Group, Wonderful Wednesdays (Evening Meal, Activity & Compline), Fellowship Guild and Reception Volunteers, Supper Group, Book Groups, Lay Weeders and Planters, Office Volunteers and more.



FACILITIES

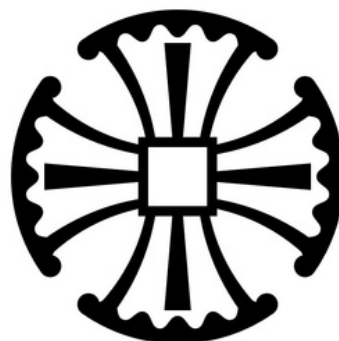
Saint Mark's is blessed to have been able to grow its campus to meet its needs as it has evolved as a parish through the years. A beautiful nave, large fellowship hall, kitchen and education wing, a nursery staffed by paid caregivers and a large music-practice space are among the facilities parishioners enjoy. Almost all of these spaces are accessible to people with disabilities.

Attention to maintenance of the building and the grounds is ongoing and intentional. Gutters, lighting, roofs, the basement, the boiler and HVAC systems have received attention in recent years, thanks in part to generous donations.

With the committed diligence of church leadership, Saint Mark's facilities will care for the needs of parishioners for years to come.



In response to the physical distancing required by the pandemic, Saint Mark's installed a multi-camera, high-definition, TV production system, pictured above. The technology will enhance future efforts to communicate the "Good News" beyond the walls of the traditional church.



Our Parish Hall was the first building finished at Saint Mark's, followed closely by the Nave and Sanctuary.

The Canterbury Center (pictured at left) was added to the campus in 1988. This was the final building completed at Saint Mark's, joining the Nave & Sanctuary, Parish Hall, Center for Christian Formation and Godly Play, and All Saints Center.

Throughout our years, renovations have been ongoing. Just like a home, there is always work to be done. Also like a home, Saint Mark's is where our family is together.





Saint Mark's Parochial data:

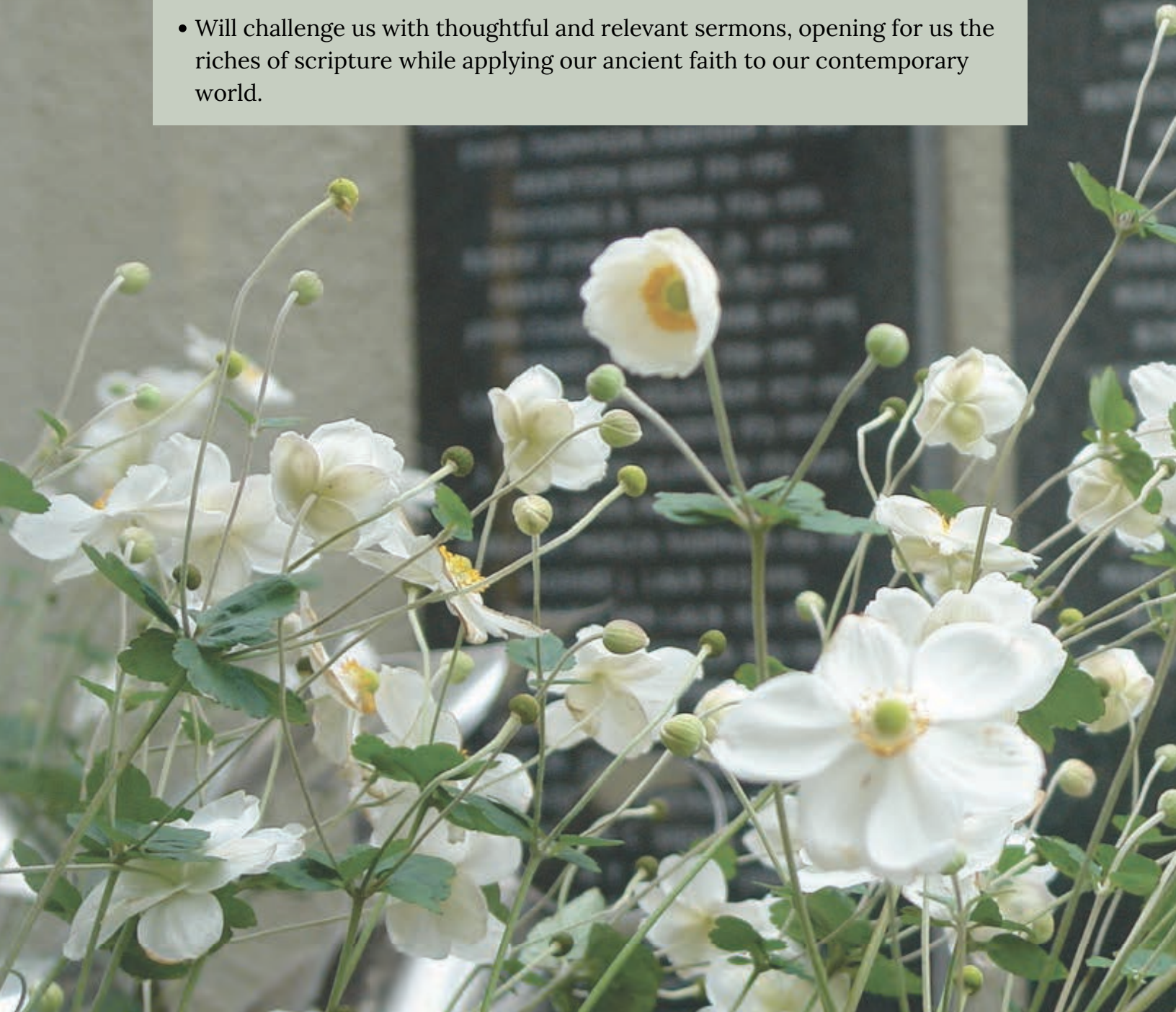
- Members: 785
- Active communicants: 360
- Average Sunday attendance: 142
- Total church school students enrolled: 32

In a recent Parish Survey, responses from 128 members provided the following demographic information:

- 52% of respondents have attended St. Mark's for 20 years or more. An additional 23% have attended from 10-19 years.
- 55% of respondents are age 65 or older.
- 67% completed a post-graduate or professional degree and an additional 22% completed a four-year degree.
- 67% are married, 10% widowed and 10% separated or divorced.
- The top five reasons respondents attend St. Mark's are worship & liturgy, music, friendships, sacraments, and sermons.

Saint Mark's seeks a rector who

- Will be a shepherd for the parish, available and accessible to parishioners, nurturing spiritual growth, and being there in times of crisis.
- Will identify and encourage gifts and talents of parishioners that can be used in our ministries.
- Will connect with all age groups and will be active in the life of the parish.
- Will work with lay leaders to seek out and warmly welcome new members and encourage them to become involved in parish life and share their gifts and talents.
- Will appreciate, support and respect our traditional liturgy and parish music tradition, while exploring additional or different opportunities for worship.
- Will challenge us with thoughtful and relevant sermons, opening for us the riches of scripture while applying our ancient faith to our contemporary world.



Looking to the Future....

Parishioners' Hopes for Saint Mark's

Informed by a parish-wide survey and focus groups, we have described much about our parish in this Profile which encourages and strengthens us as we explore daily the art of living as followers of Jesus in a world of so much need and opportunity for service. But we also expect that a new rector, while building on our traditions and strengths, will help us collaboratively explore new ways to carry out our mission of worship, service and witness. Thus, some of our hopes for Saint Mark's include:

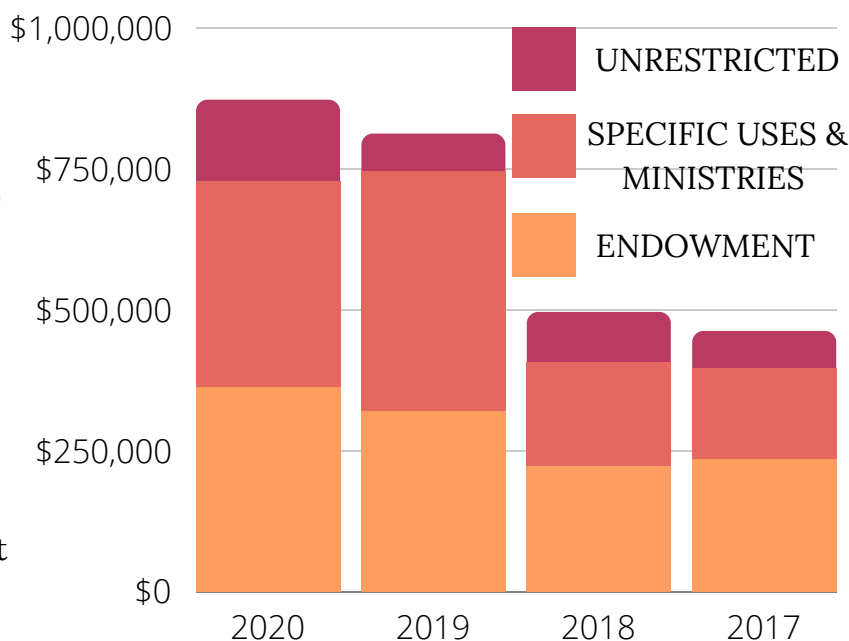
- We hope for a renewed focus on youth formation and fellowship that will benefit parishioners of all ages by attracting our church's next generation of members and leaders.
- We appreciate Saint Mark's traditional liturgy, choral music program and celebrated organ, but at the same time seek pathways to connect with parishioners who value new traditions.
- We hope for Saint Mark's to serve parishioners in times of suffering, of celebration—and all of the ordinary times in between—through lay people and clergy who embrace their roles as spiritual and compassionate caregivers, shepherds and mentors.
- We look forward to the opportunity to rethink and redefine our mission in ways that interweave who we now are with who we can be, enabling us to grow into a more intergenerational parish and learn to be more effective in providing a place where others can join us in worship, service and witness.

We are grateful for our community at Saint Mark's, for the talents and commitment of so many of our members, and for our desire to learn and grow and become ambassadors for Christ to our neighbors, as well as to each other. A rector who can lead by learning and growing with us will find many opportunities for service and ministry at Saint Mark's.



FINANCIALS

Saint Mark's is blessed to have a strong financial foundation. We have no debt and we have significant reserves. Our facilities are in very good condition, thanks in part to a bequest received in 2019 that helped us replace aging HVAC equipment and make important roof repairs. We have sufficient cash and investments on hand to cover our budget for 6 months, plus an Endowment Fund that exceeds \$350,000. Our Endowment Fund has been used occasionally to loan money to the parish to complete a major project, most recently the completion of our organ (which was repaid).



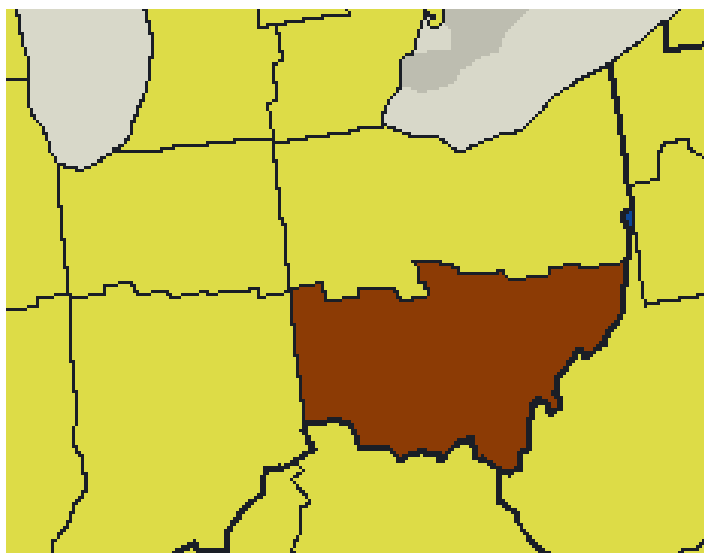
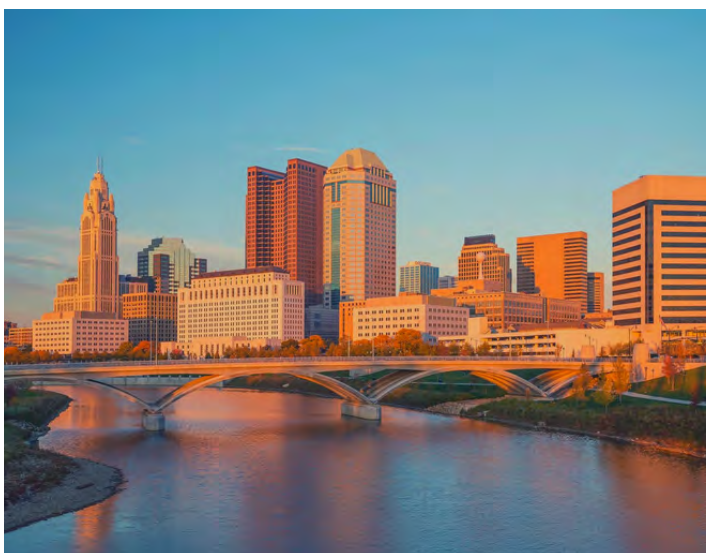
CASH & INVESTMENTS

Pledges from our members have historically represented about 80% to 85% of our annual operating budget. As with many parishes, we have not seen sustained growth in our annual pledged donations. For 2021 we experienced a significant and unusual dip in pledging, likely due in part to the impacts of the COVID pandemic. Thankfully, we have members who often exceed their pledges, and we have benefitted from many unexpected, unrestricted gifts over the past several years which have been a source of hope and inspiration. Still, we must focus on returning pledged income to more normal levels to support the ongoing ministries, clergy and staff of the parish.

Recent clergy and staff changes resulted in lower expenses in 2020 and in our 2021 budget compared to prior years. We were able to more than cover our expenses and even build our reserves as we move forward and the restrictions of the pandemic ease. With our excellent facilities, strong balance sheet and financial reserves, we are very positive about the future of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church.

St. Mark's Comparative Income & Expense Statements

	2021 Budget	2020	2019	2018
INCOME				
Pledged Contributions	\$400,000	\$446,498	\$504,161	\$459,571
Non-Pledged Contributions	63,500	70,434	59,321	27,574
Distributions From Funds	-	15,014	5,000	15,783
Investment Income	20,000	56,545	55,249	(4,352)
Facilities Rental Income	20,512	26,632	46,128	35,770
TOTAL INCOME	\$504,012	\$615,123	\$669,860	\$534,346
EXPENSES				
Staff Expense	\$254,002	\$312,209	\$340,863	\$323,085
Administration	77,340	52,861	46,402	45,840
Facilities	80,484	95,301	82,223	87,721
Outreach	6,600	7,030	6,600	7,985
Mission Share	76,000	75,637	78,773	74,248
Music/Formation/Worship/Member Care	9,586	8,434	11,088	20,991
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$504,012	\$551,472	\$565,949	\$559,870
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$0	\$63,651	\$103,911	(\$25,524)



WHERE WE ARE

About our Community; Saint Mark's Episcopal Church is located in the City of **Upper Arlington**, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus, the capital city of Ohio. Upper Arlington was established as a planned, residential community in 1918 and encompasses approximately 9.6 square miles with 34,000 residents. The city's reputation for strong public services and schools, desirable housing stock and convenience to downtown Columbus, The Ohio State University, major medical centers and the region's interstates and international airport have traditionally made it a desirable place to live for professionals in academia, medicine and government, as well as the region's insurance, banking and technology companies.

According to 2017 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, the 10-county **Columbus metro area** had 2 million residents, making it the second-largest metro area in Ohio behind Greater Cincinnati and the 32nd-most populous region in the United States.

The region is within a day's drive of 46 percent of the United States population, and has one of the youngest and most-educated populations in the country – the median age is 35.9 and 36% of residents over the age of 25 hold a bachelor's degree or higher. This has helped make the region attractive to employers dependent upon a technology-savvy workforce; the area is home to five Fortune 500 companies: Alliance Data, American Electric Power, Cardinal Health, L Brands and Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

About our Diocese; The Episcopal Church is home to more than 25,000 people in the **Diocese of Southern Ohio**. There are 72 churches in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton, and in farm towns, county seats and suburban centers across the southern half of Ohio.

The **Diocese of Southern Ohio** was created in 1875 when the Diocese of Ohio split into two dioceses, and it has a jurisdiction of over 40 counties in Ohio. The offices of the Bishop and Christ Church Cathedral are located in downtown Cincinnati.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

saintmarkscolumbus.org

2151 Dorset Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221

Interested applicants should visit
<https://episcopaliansinconnection.org/job-opportunities>.

For more information about the position, please contact:

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