



SAINT MARK'S

Dear People of Saint Mark's,

2021 has been a challenging, busy, and hopeful year for Saint Mark's.

We've put to good use all of the technology installed last year which has allowed us to effectively livestream services. Virtual attendance has been excellent, ranging from 25 to upwards of 125 households tuning in each week. During our virtual Christmas pageant, over 300 connections from 24 states and 3 countries were with us virtually. This investment is nearing completion as the network upgrade begun last year that will give us strong internet access throughout the campus will soon be finished. We are excited to continue this use of technology in other ways in the coming year.

The need for our ministry is also reflected through our resumption of in-person worship, with a well-received 8 am outdoor service as well as our more traditional indoor 10:30 am service. We continue to wrestle with the challenge of how we can safely gather in person and also offer digital options for people who are unable or not yet ready to join in-person activities. These options will also benefit the growing number of retirees who winter in warmer climes and people whose situation or schedules don't allow them to attend all the in-person opportunities they might be interested in.

We have continued our Outreach work and have found ways to continue to serve our community and the world. We have, among many other projects, helped welcome a family of asylum seekers who have resettled in the Columbus area. Members of the Outreach Committee have risen to the challenge of helping find housing, furniture, clothes and have provided all kinds of support as this family begins to build a new life here in Columbus.

We finished a year of entirely digital children's formation programs and are starting to resume in-person youth and children's formation programs.

And, of course, there was the new rector search process. The search committee gave heavily of their time and talent in surveying the membership, writing the parish profile, interviewing candidates, and recommending the vestry issue a call to a new rector. We said goodbye to Chris Thompson, our transitional priest, in August and welcomed Vicki as our new rector at the beginning of September.

These are only a few of the noteworthy things that have happened around Saint Mark's this year.

We are excited about the future of Saint Mark's. We are a parish of energy, vision, commitment and opportunity.

We look for your help as Saint Mark's begins the next phase of our journey. We need you to continue to give of your time. We need you to offer your skills and abilities and your presence and prayers. And, yes, we need you to support Saint Mark's financially as well.



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Saint Mark's has a history of giving generously of time, talent and treasure. This has continued through the pandemic and the rector transition. We thank you for all of the gifts that you have shared with the congregation. If you have any questions about Saint Mark's finances please reach out to one of us.

We ask you to read the enclosed materials. We ask that you take a quiet moment out of your busy day to reflect on what Saint Mark's means to you in your life and how we might share it with others in our community. Finally, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support our ministry in 2022.

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