

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

2022 Annual Meeting

February 13, 2022



Churches find innovative ways to get ashes to members this Ash Wednesday

Danae King
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“Saint Mark’s has allowed me to raise my children in the
Episcopal tradition.”





Agenda

1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
2. Introductions of Staff, Wardens, Vestry & Convention Delegates
3. Approval of the 2021 Minutes
4. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
5. Nominations & Election
6. Reports
 - a) Rector
 - b) Wardens
 - c) Treasurer
7. Vision for Saint Mark's
8. Discussion for the Good of the Parish
9. Closing Prayer & Adjournment





2021 Staff, Vestry, Trustees

Staff

Rector	The Rev. Vicki Zust
Transitional Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Christopher Thompson
Director of Music	Dr. Matthew Bester
Interim Organist	Robert Wisniewski
Interim Organist	Jeff McConaughy
Office Manager	Melanie Jacobs

Vestry

Senior Warden	Mark Drew
Junior Warden	Leslie Winters
Youth Warden	Henry Markwardt
Class of 2022	Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt Jay Iams Marilyn Karl
Class of 2023	Anice Ellis Judith Grant Bill Mayr Irina Reed
Class of 2024	Cheryl Boop Julia Johnson-Davis Roman Skoracki Sam Slee
Convention Delegates	Betsy Gillespie George Reed Mark Drew (ex officio, Sr. Warden) Leslie Winters (ex officio, Jr. Warden)
Treasurer	Phil Glandon
Secretary (Clerk)	Barbara Hyre

Trustees

Chair	Dan Morton Bruce Johnson Jeff Porterfield Phil Glandon (ex officio, Treasurer) Dot Yeager (ex officio, Immediate Past Sr. Warden)
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Parish Statistics

	2021	2020	2019
MEMBERS REPORTED PRIOR YEAR	785	795	796
INCREASES (INCLUDES TRANSFERS, BAPTISMS)	7	14	7
DECREASES (INCLUDES TRANSFERS, DEATHS)	3	24	8
TOTAL ACTIVE BAPTISED MEMBERS	<u>789</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>795</u>
COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING:			
ADULTS (AGE 16 AND OVER)	282	278	371
YOUTH (UNDER AGE 16)	80	82	67
TOTAL	<u>362</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>438</u>
AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	91*	142	140
EASTER ATTENDANCE	114	+	465
NUMBER OF SERVICES:			
SUNDAY EUCHARIST	80	27	116
WEEKDAY EUCHARIST (PUBLIC)	18	7	82
PRIVATE EUCHARIST	3	8	+
OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES - IN PERSON	2	12	5
OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES - ONLINE	54	36	
OTHER WEEKDAY SERVICES - ONLINE	18	13	5
MARRIAGES	1	0	4
BURIALS	5	11	5
BAPTISMS	0	1	3
CONFIRMATIONS/RECEPTIONS	9	0	0
TOTAL CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED	24	+	38

* Average online attendance: 73

+ Data not available



2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2021 annual meeting was held virtually via Zoom following the 10:30 AM worship service. Dot Yeager, Senior Warden, called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM, and Father Chris Thompson, Interim Transitional Rector and Priest-in-Charge, led the parish in an opening prayer. Barbara Hyre was appointed Recorder for the meeting. Judith Grant was appointed online Moderator for Zoom.

MINUTES of the 2020 annual meeting were, upon *motion, duly seconded and passed*, approved as written.

VESTRY SLATE

The Nominating Committee was made up of retiring Vestry members (David Boop, Pam Thurston, and Jay Wilcox), Senior and Junior Wardens (Dot Yeager and Mark Drew), and Interim Priest in Charge (Father Chris Thompson) brought forth the following slate of candidates for the 2021 Vestry, Convention Delegates, and Endowment Trustee

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

Vestry Nominations

Senior Warden—Mark Drew

Junior Warden—Leslie Winters

Youth Warden—Henry Markwardt

Vestry Class of 2024—Cheryl Boop

Vestry Class of 2024—Julia Johnson-Davis

Vestry Class of 2024—Roman Skoracki

Vestry Class of 2024—Sam Slee

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Betsy Gillespie

George Reed

Endowment Trust Nomination

Bruce Johnson

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2021 BUDGET

Phil Glandon gave the *2020 Financial Report*. Phil reminded everyone that the 2020 budget was put together in an atmosphere of uncertainty. We knew Paul St. Germain, our Rector, was retiring, and that both Christopher Richardson (Associate Rector) and Tyler Robertson (Organist) would probably leave sometime during 2020, but the time frame for these changes was not known. In the end, the timing of the staffing changes resulted in lower staff expenses than anticipated.

COVID-19 and the associated downturn in the general economy impacted Saint Mark's budget in a variety of ways. Plate revenue declined, pledged income took a hit, and rental income from the Junior Explorers program disappeared. COVID precluded worshipping in person, so fellowship, vocal music, heating, and cleaning expenses were down, but internet and technology/software expenses needed to host virtual worship increased. Other administrative expenses were fixed, like insurance, auditing, postage, and phones. Saint Mark's also incurred one-off expenses unrelated to COVID. We replaced our antiquated accounting and membership program with an updated version of the software. We re-lamped the sanctuary with long lasting LED lights (which will save money in the long run), and we spent \$8,600 in HVAC repairs.

Saint Mark's was blessed to receive a combination of gifts, bequests, and donations above pledge. These unexpected monies offset a loss in our operating budget, added to the major projects fund, and allowed year end donations to NNEMAP and the Open Shelter beyond what was originally planned. Investment income was up, resulting in unrealized gains in the stock market, and we closed some old, unused funds. The result of all the pluses and minuses was a gain from operations in 2020.

George Reed asked about Saint Mark's financial obligations toward Paul St. Germain's retirement. Phil explained that Saint Mark's pays 18% of staff salaries into the diocesan retirement pension fund, so there is no additional expense



2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

when someone retires.

Phil also presented the 2021 Budget. Planning for this year was still uncertain. We do not know when we will call a new Rector, when we will hire a full time organist, when we will be able to go back to in-person worship, or if Junior Explorers will rent our space again. We do know that pledges are \$46,000 less than last year. So the budget was put together with a conservative non-pledged income estimate, and an assumption of rental income from the Redding Road house and donations from outside groups like AA and Al-Anon. Increased administrative expenses that were budgeted for include the costs associated with calling a new Rector (including relocation expenses), an upgrade to the web site, and startup expenses associated with hiring a new audit firm. There were also assumptions of reduced expenses in some categories. It seems unlikely that we will be able to hire an Assistant Rector in the foreseeable future. We are hoping for lower facility expenses since we have spent a lot on upgrades and repairs to the physical plant in the last few years.

Phil stressed that while Saint Mark's is tight every year on the operating budget, we are blessed to have strong financial reserves. We have cash in the bank, a Major Project fund, an Endowment Fund that earns interest and dividends, and other smaller funds for designated ministries. Our financial picture would be the envy of many other churches. Another way in which Saint Mark's is blessed is with all the volunteers who help with the parish finances, accounting, and stewardship. Phil expressed his thanks to everyone who contributes their time and talents.

WARDENS' REPORT

Dot Yeager gave the Wardens' report. Dot thanked the members rotating off Vestry (David Boop, Pam Thurston, and Jay Wilcox) for their service. Dot also thanked the members of the Rector Search Committee (Elisabeth Anstaett, Scott Milburn, Anice Ellis, Betsy Gillespie, Michele Johnson, Barb Keyes, Dan Morton, and Gloria Wylie) for all their work. Dot expressed her gratitude to the parish for their patience through the pandemic and their willingness to learn how to do things differently. Dot mentioned some building improvements, including the butterfly garden irrigation system made possible by donations and help from volunteers. The Open Hearts, Open Doors group continues to assess how and when in-person worship can happen; Dot announced that in-person worship will be held at 8 am on Wednesdays during Lent starting on February 24.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Father Chris Thompson remarked that most of his report was incorporated into his sermon, but he urged members of the parish to think if they know anyone who might be a potential candidate for the rector position. According to Father Chris, the "informal network" is often the best way to find good candidates.

WEB SITE UPDATE

Bill Mayr gave an update on the work being done to refresh the website. The Web Site Refresh committee includes Father Chris, Dot Yeager, Mathew Bester, Margaret Wells, Dan Morton, Melanie Jacobs, and Joanne Drew. The home page of the web site has been the main focus to date. The team is working mostly on content first, with layout and stylistic changes to follow. We could purchase a design package from one of a variety of vendors or we might opt to hire a graphic designer to help with stylistic changes. Bill reminded everyone that the web site will always be changing and should never be considered done. Bill walked attendees through the web site, assuring everyone that the parish directory is secure and encouraging everyone to explore and make suggestions.

DISMISSAL

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM with a prayer from Father Chris Thompson.

Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Hyre (Recorder)



2022 Vestry Slate

SENIOR WARDEN 1-YEAR TERM (I TO BE ELECTED)

MARK DREW



Mark Drew, standing for election to his second year as Senior Warden, says he finds the position to be challenging and satisfying. "Taking on the role of Senior Warden has been a life-changing experience for me. Quite busy at times, but I've rarely been so happy to be so busy," he said.

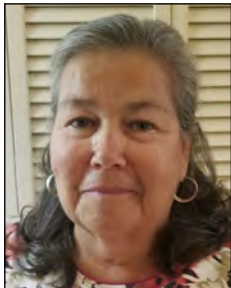
Mark is an assistant professor and director of graduate education in the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity at Ohio State University's College of Medicine. He and his wife Joanne and children Fred and Matilda became members of Saint Mark's when they moved to Columbus in 2008. Mark earned his PhD at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; they joined the Episcopal Church in St. Louis while Mark was doing post-doctoral studies.

Mark has served as Junior Warden, has been a member of the Open Hearts, Open Doors and Stewardship committees and has enjoyed singing in the choir. He also 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.

For the Drews, "Saint Mark's is a place we have become rooted in. In it, we have acquired a whole new family that we love and that loves us back."

JUNIOR WARDEN 1-YEAR TERM (I TO BE ELECTED)

LESLIE A. WINTERS



Leslie Winters is a long-time resident of Upper Arlington who started attending Saint Mark's about 10 years ago. She was looking for a church with values more consistent with her own and found that home at Saint Mark's. Leslie found the congregation to be welcoming and quickly became involved in the Outreach Ministry.

In 2016 she was asked if she would consider running for the Vestry and agreed to stand for election. She served on the Vestry from 2016-2019 and found that, in addition to being a way to give back, it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know people of the parish she would not have met otherwise. Leslie returned to the Vestry in 2021 as the Junior Warden. One of the pleasures of that role, in addition to making new friends within the Vestry, has been working closely with our Rector, Senior Warden and Treasurer, each of whom provides wonderful perspectives on the issues facing the church and imparts their wisdom and spirituality in ways that may not have been considered. It has also been an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the facilities, budgets and needs of the parish.

She currently co-chairs the Outreach Committee, serves on the Flower Guild and participates in the knitting ministry. Her role in Outreach also allows her to work with the migration ministry.

Leslie is a retired attorney who served with public entities including Ohio State University, Rickenbacker Port Authority, the State Personnel Board of Review and the Ohio Attorney General.

YOUTH WARDEN 1-YEAR TERM (I TO BE ELECTED)

LUKAS SKORACKI



Youth Warden candidate Lukas Skoracki is a junior at Upper Arlington High School, where he enjoys studying world history, English and German. "My favorite subject is world history because I love delving deeper into the stories of other nations," Lukas said.

He belongs to the high school's sailing club, plays trumpet in the marching band and plays piano. He's also a member of the Scouts, having attended several summer camps and high-adventure bases.

At Saint Mark's he participates in youth programs. He said he's running for Youth Warden because "I enjoy spending time with other youth in the church and therefore would like to represent the youth group and its members in a meaningful way."



2022 Vestry Slate

3-YEAR TERM (4 TO BE ELECTED)

MARTHA BELURY



Like many active people, Martha Belury can find room for another project, such as serving on the vestry. She has served previously on vestries at Saint Mark's and at the Episcopal campus ministry of Purdue University.

"Saint Mark's is part of my living and part of my community, from fellowship to worship to refreshment. As a member of our parish, it's my turn to give back," she said about wanting to return to the vestry. She also has served as a chalice bearer, on the Stephen ministry team and as a teacher with Children and Youth Formation.

Martha enjoys Saint Mark's because of "the people, the worship traditions and God. My sons, Mathias and Andrew, were choristers, members of the youth group and grew up in Saint Marks. My sons are now young adults. I am praying that at some point, they too find a church with the red doors."

Martha is a professor of nutrition at Ohio State University, where she teaches, mentors graduate students and runs a nutritional physiology lab; she is president-elect of the American Society for Nutrition, the oldest and largest nutrition-research society in the world. In her spare time, she and her husband, Jim, bike on trails in Ohio and surrounding states.

BETSY GILLESPIE



Betsy Gillespie might be most recognizable in her Saint Mark's Choir robes. Now she'd like to become more active in the congregation.

"Serving on the Rector Search Committee helped me deepen my engagement with Saint Mark's and learn more about its community. After the work of the committee ended I found myself wanting to continue my service. I have served on nonprofit boards and work in the non-profit sector, and I feel that experience will be relevant to vestry service," she said.

Betsy is charitable giving director at Friendship Village of Dublin and has worked in philanthropy since 2007. She holds a music degree, has been a teaching artist in opera and has served as a school music teacher. She participates in the Contemplative Prayer group and supports her daughter's participation on the Canterbury Choir.

"Saint Mark's has become a second home for me and my children (Madalyn, 10 and Gabriel, 5). We love this community and feel loved and supported within it. It's especially meaningful to be a member of a church where children are respected and included, and my children feel like full members of the Saint Mark's community."

BRUCE JOHNSON



Saint Mark's has been the church home for Bruce Johnson, and his wife, Michele, for 30 years. "We were made to feel welcome from the very beginning and the warmth of the welcome has never faded," Bruce said.

He has returned the favor: singing in the choir for more than a decade, a lay reader, chalice bearer, trustee of the parish endowment fund and a member of the Marksmen. He has served on Saint Mark's vestry twice previously and also served on vestries in Columbia, SC and Ann Arbor, MI. Plus, he is "Exalted Scheduler" (Bruce's term) of the parish Golf League.

Bruce retired in 2014 as a professor at Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law. He said he is interested in returning to the vestry because "assisting in the governance of Saint Mark's is an important way to serve this parish and its members.

"I have liked the four rectors (each very distinct) I have known here, its liturgical style (not too high, not too low), its wonderful music, its architecture (very good mid-century modern), its gardens and, above all, the people of Saint Mark's."



2022 Vestry Slate

BARB KEYES



When it comes to serving Saint Mark's, Barb Keyes' response is 'yes.' Barb has been a member of Saint Mark's for nearly 40 years; this would be her third vestry term. In her previous term she also held the posts of junior and senior warden.

"You'll usually find me around at most things going on in the parish," she said. That includes Outreach activities, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Sacred Conversations, book groups and more. She said she's excited about the future of Saint Mark's: "Despite the Covid restrictions I have watched Saint Mark's adapt, change and grow to meet the needs of the congregation. I am so proud of how we have pulled together to keep Saint Mark's active."

"I find the people of Saint Mark's caring and resilient. We adapt to situations with a smile and hard work. I love that we are able to reach outside our walls and help others through all our outreach projects. We check on each other and are there to help when needed. The lasting friendships I've made here at Saint Mark's are a great joy. Saint Mark's is a wonderful, vibrant place to be."

MID-TERM VACANCY—TO SERVE THE REMAINING 2 YEARS OF A 3-YEAR TERM

JODI HESS



Variety appears to be the spice of life for Jodi Hess. She worked as a dietician before switching careers to become a stay-at-home mom for her four children. Her volunteer work has included her children's schools, USA Swimming, Y Swimming, Boy Scouts and Voicecorps Reading Service. Also, in the past couple of years she has put her love of cycling, hiking and camping to use part time at REI Dublin.

Jodi was raised Episcopalian and has been a member of Saint Mark's for about 15 years; she serves as a lector and a Stephen Minister. She has served on the vestry in a previous parish. Also at Saint Mark's, "Under (organist-choirmaster emeritus) Gary Garber, I was the Canterbury Choir Mom for many years. I was responsible for fundraising and put together two pilgrimages to the National Cathedral and spring trips in the off years," she said. "Saint Mark's has allowed me to raise my children in the Episcopal tradition." Jodi, her husband, Steve, and their family live in the Hilliard area.

CONVENTION DELEGATES (2 TO BE ELECTED)

CHERYL BOOP

BETSY GILLESPIE

The Wardens serve as delegates ex officio

CONVENTION DELEGATE ALTERNATES (4 TO BE ELECTED)

TBD



Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of the outgoing vestry members. Clergy and wardens serve as members ex officio.



Rector's Report



First of all, allow me to introduce myself. I'm Vicki Zust, the 7th Rector of Saint Mark's. I became the rector of Saint Mark's on September 1, 2021, so this is a rather brief report mostly of things since that date.

I want to thank the Rev. Christopher Thompson for all his work as your transition priest and especially for his willingness to meet with me between my call and arrival and help me be able to hit the ground running.

I also want to thank the search committee for a careful, thoughtful process and for being such a great reflection of Saint Mark's, the welcoming committee for getting meetings set up with many different groups and arranging times for people to drop in and talk with me this fall and the wardens and vestry for all their work in helping me get settled and up to speed as quickly as possible.

I spent most of the 4th quarter of 2021 meeting with groups and individuals and getting to know Saint Mark's as a congregation and how things happen here. In addition to the usual round of services, pastoral care, and usual administration, I have worked on a few areas specifically:

Formation: I've met several times with Dan Morton, Judith Grant and others interested in adult formation. We now have a schedule of formation events for the rest of the 2021-22 program year. We will be doing a few hybrid book discussions in addition to Sunday morning offerings and are working on perfecting hybrid models for Sunday morning so that people can participate from anywhere. I've also met with the children's formation team. As we resumed in-person formation this fall, the team was very flexible in adapting to the rapidly changing situation. In addition to in-person offerings, we are doing monthly "Take Home Sunday School" lessons to provide another option (or a supplement) for families. We also did a Halloween pumpkin carving coffee hour and made Advent wreaths at the beginning of Advent.

— ["We have so many gifts and so many opportunities, we need to
decide which we want to live into."] —

First Sunday Outreach: The Outreach Committee accepted the challenge to provide an intergenerational activity between the services the first Sunday of each month. The first two in November and December were well received. We try to connect the first Sunday activity to what the focus of the Scriptures and worship will be in the coming month.

Youth Group: Thank you so much to Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt for committing to co-lead the youth group with me this year. The youth group is meeting the first Sunday of each month following the 10:30 service. We start with lunch and then have an activity. In October we did some brainstorming about what the youth would be interested in. In November we took an on-foot field trip to Covenant Presbyterian's labyrinth and are talking about building a temporary outdoor labyrinth at Saint Mark's this spring. In December we intended to bake Christmas cookies for the outreach cookie walk, but oven pilot lights prevented us actually doing the baking. Fun was had regardless. We are actively discussing a pilgrimage/mission trip to Hawaii. We assume we will not have any trouble recruiting adult chaperones. Youth group is open to any youth grades 6 to 12.



Rector's Report

Nametags: You will have noticed that we have updated nametags on Saint Mark's red lanyards. Please wear your nametags. I know that it is still an issue to get them separated sometimes and we are working on that. As we invite people to check out Saint Mark's it is so helpful for us to be wearing our nametags.

Organist Search: The Organist search committee and Dr. Bester did fantastic work in a short space of time and dealing with COVID breakthrough infections in the choir. The result is that we called Michael Schreffler as the permanent organist for Saint Mark's. Michael began his ministry with us in January 2022.

Facilities plan: The property committee is working hard on getting a comprehensive list of building issues and wishes and coming up with a prioritized list of projects, both those we can do ourselves and those that are more extensive.

Reaching our neighbors: We are about to get a many, many new neighbors. Between the developments at Northstar and Lane; Kingsdale; the Golden Bear Center; on Lane Avenue and just across the river around the new metro park on Trabue there will be around 4000 new housing units and that doesn't take into account the continuing growth in Hilliard and southwest Columbus. We need to let our new neighbors know that we are here and get ready to invite and welcome them into our community. Scott Milburn, Betsy Gillespie and Mark Drew are working with me to figure out how to do the first part effectively and well.

Visioning: The next five years are going to bring many changes. We are going to begin to see what the post-COVID, or maybe normalized COVID world will look like. We are going to explore what it looks like to do things in a hybrid way, and what things work well that way and which don't. As mentioned above, we will have lots of new neighbors, some of whom will join us at Saint Mark's. Beyond all of that, we need to decide what direction Saint Mark's wants to move in. We have so many gifts and so many opportunities, we need to decide which we want to live into. I've been asking for your ideas of what you would like Saint Mark's to do or be or become. Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at the results of those and see if we can come to some consensus on a vision for the next phase of Saint Marks' future.

One last note. Bishop Smith will be coming for the Celebration of New Ministry on Saturday April 30. I chose that date for a couple of reasons. The first is that it is the Saturday after the feast day of Saint Mark. We will be celebrating Saint Mark as we celebrate the new phase of Saint Mark's. The other was that it is spring and hopefully, no matter what is happening with COVID, we will be able to have a party and really spend time celebrating together. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information as we get closer.





Wardens' Report

A most unusual year

It would be easy to fill any given year's report with various new and unexpected challenges that have been met by Saint Mark's, and 2021 was certainly no exception. We entered the year with a transitional priest-in-charge, a pandemic that made it difficult to gather for fellowship and worship in person, a temporary organist, and two "rookie" wardens. To put it simply, 2021 was a most unusual year indeed, but our faith in God's plan allowed our lay-leadership to accept the challenges, do good work, and make the year full of growth and fond memories.

Comings and Goings

Entering the year, our Transitional Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend C. Christopher Thompson always had a smile and a warm greeting whether on his weekly Facebook chats, in his wonderful photo in the pages of the Columbus Dispatch featuring his "Lenten Ashes by Mail," or even when enduring the cold or heat of 8 a.m. outdoor services. Especially welcome was Chris's gift of over 40 years as clergy to help shepherd the parish through the process of calling a new rector.

Our Interim Organist, Robert Wisniewski, was with us throughout most of the year. Bob's dynamic expertise at the organ was beautifully contrasted by his warm spirit and quiet demeanor.

The Vestry of Saint Mark's was no exception to change. Our class of 2022 "graduates" (Marilyn Karl, Jay Iams, Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, Henry Markwardt, and Sam Slee) are giving way to the new members of the class of 2025. We cannot thank them enough for their gifts of time and talent in their service to Saint Mark's during their terms.

From a financial perspective, our Finance Committee and Endowment Trustees deserve our gratitude for their responsible oversight of the fiscal health of Saint Mark's. Like the vestry, these groups also grow and evolve through change. The Finance Committee, led by Treasurer Phil Glandon, met regularly this year and grew by the addition of Julia Johnson-Davis. Dan Morton, Jeff Porterfield, and Bruce Johnson should be thanked for their service as Endowment Trustees, and we welcome Elizabeth Ansteatt, Kevin Fix, and Jay Wilcox in their place.

Notably, related to "Coming and Goings", Saint Mark's has lost, and gained, members over the past year. Though some have moved away from us, and some have been laid to rest, these past members of our laity remain with us in our hearts. We have been blessed with a significant number of new people we are just getting to know. Some have become members, while some are only beginning to become familiar faces on Sunday mornings. We look forward to knowing them well as they grow into our Saint Mark's family.

Seek and Ye Shall Find and Committees Anew

Saint Mark's strength and resiliency during the year was perhaps best exemplified by strong lay-leadership that contributed to our growth.

The New-Rector Search Committee (Elizabeth Ansteatt, Chair; Scott Milburn, Vice-Chair; Betsy Gillespie; Barb Keyes; Dan Morton; Michelle Johnson) organized and oversaw focus groups and conducted a comprehensive parish survey that resulted in their excellent Parish Profile document. With this information in hand, the committee worked hard in advertising for and interviewing candidates, with their effort paying dividends as Saint Mark's welcomed Pastor Vicki Zust as our seventh rector beginning on September 1.

Vicki was warmly greeted by a Welcoming Committee (Ellen German; Chair; Cheryl Boop; Joanne Drew; Bruce Johnson; Jim Keyes) that arranged for gifts from the parish, meet-and-greet lemonade and cookies, and helpful "getting settled" information.

An Organist Search Committee (Matthew Bester and Ted Meyers, Co-Chairs; Steve Barker; Cheryl Boop; Amy Brokken; Diane Silliman) was assembled to identify and hire a new permanent organist. Their hard work culminated in the recruitment of Michael Schreffler, Saint Mark's new permanent organist who joined us in January 2022.



Wardens' Report

A new Communications Committee (Bill Mayr, Joanne Drew, and Melanie Jacobs) work closely with Pastor Vicki in supporting the weekly, monthly, and special printed and electronic communications necessary to keep our parish members and community in touch with all that is happening at Saint Mark's. This committee has also been hard at work on a much-needed refresh to our website.

Finally, Dot Yeager, in concert with clergy, chaired the Open Hearts Open Doors Committee (Dot Yeager, Chair, Matt Bester, Mark Drew, Anne Getz, Phil Glandon, Jim Keyes, Bill Mayr, George Reed, Bill Silliman, Laura Skoracki, Sam Slee, Gloria Wylie). This committee deserves high praise for making the often tough decisions necessary that guided Saint Mark's safely through 2021.

Our Building

By approval of the Vestry, a parish refresh project with a budget of \$15,000 began late 2020. Funds were to be used to refresh the rector's office and other areas of the campus prior to the reopening of the facilities following the COVID shutdown. For this, a Parish Refresh Committee (Leslie Winters, Chair; Judith Grant; Sam Slee) was formed.

The majority of the funds were used for the rector's office which needed new paint, leveling of the floor, carpeting and baseboards, and some furniture. Superusers of the kitchen, the education area, and the youth lounge were solicited for opinions related to their areas and each was allocated \$500 for their highest priorities. A color copier/printer and shelving was purchased for the formation area and new furniture items in the youth lounge. Bistro tables and hospitality carts were purchased for the parish hall and shelving was installed in the kitchen pantry. In addition, a new deep sink was added in the kitchen, furniture near the elevator was replaced, and the kiosks in the parish hall were updated. Significant decluttering and cleaning was done on a volunteer basis without cost.

A number of needed projects and purchases were deferred, notably the repainting of the parish hall, bathrooms, kitchen, and education wing hallways (estimate ~\$30,000). Purchasing of new parish hall tables was also deferred (estimate ~\$6,000).

The refresh committee has since evolved into our new Building Committee (Larry Anderson, Roman Skoracki, Leslie Winters, Dave Yeager, and Vicki Zust). As a step toward identifying and managing maintenance and repairs, the committee has completed a thorough inventory of replacement and maintenance projects. The highest priority item on the list was stopping water leakage from the skylight above the altar. That has been accomplished at a cost of ~\$3,500, although keeping other areas of the roof from leaking remains an ongoing challenge. Next year will be busy for this group as it tries to tackle some of the deferred maintenance while at the same time making improvements to the campus. During the course of the committee's work, it became clear how much deferred maintenance exists on the campus and how Saint Mark's lacks for a facilities coordinator.

The work of this committee should allow for improved planning and budget forecasting for our facility's needs.

New habits

2021 was also a year of new habits at Saint Mark's. It marked our first full year of livestreaming our Sunday services and special events. Notably, each of our Holy Week services were well-viewed and our Sunday service "virtual attendance" has grown and has been especially welcome by our travelling retirees and by those who occasionally need to stay at home on a Sunday morning.

Weather-dependent outdoor services have continued throughout the year for the 8 a.m. Sunday Service which are now followed by a new coffee hour for these "early birds".

Also newly introduced was our "First Sundays Outreach Project" sponsored by the Outreach Ministry on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 AM. This gathering is intended to allow more members to both learn about our various Outreach Ministry programs and to participate in a hands-on project related to the program being discussed that day.



Wardens' Report

Finally, a new habit for the Vestry was the posting of Vestry minutes on the website so that they can be shared with the entire congregation. The Vestry unanimously agreed to this as a means of shedding light on the activities of the Vestry for all to understand.

It Takes a Village

Finally, it is worth noting that much of the hard work involved in the lay-leadership of our parish goes unrecognized. Many hands and hearts go into every aspect of helping Saint Mark's thrive from week to week, from the altar flower arrangements on Sunday mornings to the financial stewardship provided by our finance and endowment committees. From the Wardens' perspective, a few individuals need to be singled out for their support throughout the past year. From their experience as past treasurers and senior-wardens, Phil Glandon and Dot Yeager have been invaluable in their ever-ready knowledge and caring advice. Vestry members Cheryl Boop and Julia-Johnson Davis stepped up and volunteered to co-chair the year's successful stewardship campaign. Search Committee chairs Elizabeth Ansteatt and Scott Millburn bore a heavy responsibility in the task of calling a new rector. George Reed and son Alex were a mainstay in pushing out our livestream. Dave Yeager and Steve Bigley worked tirelessly throughout the year, reaching into every nook and cranny of our building, to complete our parish networking infrastructure project.

Finally, as wardens we have been blessed to work with two outstanding clergy this year in the Revs. Chris Thompson and Vicki Zust. Each has taken their turn at the helm during this "most unusual year" and each have shared with us God's message of love and hope--a message that has maintained and solidified a foundation of service that supports the ministry of Saint Mark's.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Drew, Senior Warden, and Leslie Winters, Junior Warden

Endowment Trustees' Report

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund during 2021 were: Dan Morton (chair), Phil Glandon (treasurer), Jeff Porterfield, Bruce Johnson and Dot Yeager. The Trustees met twice during the year, in April and in November, to review the Endowment Fund investments, which are held at The Columbus Foundation.

At December 31, 2021, the total principal and income balance of the Endowment Fund invested in the account at The Columbus Foundation was \$387,469.91. This account had capital gains and investment income totaling \$30,700.63 during 2021. Fees and expenses totaled \$1,362.36. Two distributions were made from the Endowment fund to the Parish operating fund during 2021 totaling \$10,938.

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

Respectfully submitted by Dan Morton, Endowment Trustees Chair

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Endowment Fund Financial Statement
For the Year Ended 12/31/21**

Fund balance 12/31/2020	\$ 362,607.33
<u>2021 Activity:</u>	
Contributions received	6,462.32
Investment gains and income	30,700.63
Income distributed to parish operations	(10,938.00)
Administration & Investment Fees	<u>(1,362.36)</u>
Fund Balance 12/31/2021	<u>\$ 387,469.92</u>



Treasurer's Report

Review of 2021 Financial Performance

The year ended 12/31/2021 was a very good one for the church financially. We had a gain from operations of \$182,684 before depreciation expense or audit adjustments. Our good fortune in 2021 was the result of both higher than expected revenue and lower than expected expenses.

Our higher than expected revenue came from three main areas.

- 1) A few significant non-pledged donations were received. Those donations were used partly to fund our ordinary operating expenses and to purchase a new grand piano for the choir room, a portable electronic piano and to make further improvements to the reliability of our Wi-Fi network.
- 2) Higher than expected gains from our investments, primarily in the Endowment Fund, were the result of another strong year in the stock market. Capital gains in the Endowment Fund stay in that fund, but dividends and interest are distributed for use in our operations.
- 3) We received approval from the government to convert our \$72,722 Cares Act Payroll Protection Program loan to a grant, thereby removing the need to repay it. That good fortune is included in the Miscellaneous Other Income line on our statement.

We anticipated lower expenses during 2021 *without* the full cost of a permanent Rector for seven months and *with* reduced operations due to Covid, but they were even lower than we expected. The major differences between our budget and actual expenses were:

- 1) Staff Payroll and Expenses were reduced when Chris Thompson chose not to use \$4,500 of his budgeted housing allowance and professional expense. We were overly conservative in budgeting for our new Rector's compensation package. Those expenses were lower than budget and Vicki started one month later than we planned so we had a month with no healthcare, pension, or other Rector benefits.
- 2) Administrative costs were lower because expenses for our Rector search were \$8,700 less than we budgeted, and we chose a new audit firm whose fee was more reasonable than the firm we had anticipated using.
- 3) The Diocese Mission Share amount was lower than we budgeted. Mission Share is calculated as a percentage (13.04%) of our operating expenses. Because our expenses were lower than expected, so was our Mission Share. When creating the budget, I thought we might be required to pay Mission Share on our PPP Loan if it was forgiven, but I have since learned that is not the case.
- 4) Higher building repair expenses offset some of the savings noted above. We incurred costs of \$9,459 for HVAC repairs and \$5,865 to fix roof leaks.

2022 Budget

The Vestry decided, based on three consecutive years of surpluses, to loosen up a bit on our bare bones budgeting philosophy. In the past we have been fearful of budgeting expenses that overreach our known sources of revenue (pledges, investment earnings and rental income). Vicki led the Vestry in a very engaging conversation held over several long meetings that empowered the Vestry to imagine what they could do with additional funds. The result of those discussions appears in the 2022 budget. You will note that the budget shows a deficit of just over \$75,000. That amount is slightly more than 40% of our surplus from 2021. We felt comfortable in budgeting that, knowing we have enough in the bank to cover that increased level of spending for two and a half years. And, we have faith that the Lord will provide for us as he has the past several years with unexpected financial support. Below are some brief details of the budget.

Staff expenses include raises of 4% annualized over 2021. Our office manager, Melanie, has decided to cut back to 25 hours per week and Vicki hopes to fill that gap with two parttime positions in facilities management and program development.



Treasurer's Report

Administrative expenses are expected to decline in 2022 without expenses for a Rector search. We have added \$2,500 in advertising expense which Vicki hopes the Diocese will match to attract new members.

Facilities expenses were budgeted significantly higher in anticipation of higher utility costs, janitorial fees, and continued building repairs.

The Diocesan Mission Share will increase because our operating expenses will.

Christian Education and Outreach received a significant boost to reflect the importance that Vicki and the Vestry place on those ministries.

All other areas except Stewardship were allocated significant increases in budget so that leadership in those areas have the resources to better serve our parish as we fully restore our programs to pre-Covid levels and in anticipation of an exciting future for Saint Mark's.

Concluding Thoughts

I am pleased that the Vestry, under Vicki's, Mark's, and Leslie's leadership, has decided to stretch, think positively, and have the faith to pass a budget that goes beyond our identified revenue for next year. We have the resources in the bank to fund a deficit budget, but I have faith that we will continue to receive unexpected gifts that will fill the gap. It seems like the right moment to begin building our programs and ministries. Investing in the future could lead to growth in membership and build momentum to increase our pledged dollars. I am excited to see Saint Mark's step outside the box and discover what bringing more faith into our budgeting process can do for our future!

Respectfully submitted by Phil Glandon, Treasurer

"Saint Mark's has become a second home for me and my children
We love this community and feel loved and supported within it."





Treasurer's Report

2021 Statement of Financial Activity & 2022 Budget

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Member Contributions - Pledged	\$400,000	\$394,320	\$400,000
Plate & Non-Pledged Receipts	63,500	130,672	65,000
Earnings from Investments	20,000	34,634	20,000
Misc. Other Income	2,712	73,876	2,500
Rental Income	17,800	17,921	18,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$504,012	\$651,423	\$505,500
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Staff Payroll & Expenses	\$254,002	\$230,943	\$288,521
Administration	77,340	64,014	63,361
Facilities	80,484	94,013	119,900
Outreach	6,600	6,600	10,000
Diocese Mission Share	76,000	63,000	77,165
Christian Education and Development	1,000	403	6,700
Fellowship and Hospitality	1,876	841	2,300
Member Care	200	598	1,000
Music	2,190	3,086	4,160
Stewardship	320	245	250
Worship	4,000	4,997	7,500
Total Expenses	\$504,012	\$468,739	\$580,857
Net Income Over / (Under) Expenses	\$0	\$182,684	(\$75,357)



Stewardship

We celebrate all the wonderful gifts with which God blesses us daily!

We began our time on Vestry with volunteering to be on the Stewardship Committee – both of us new to Vestry and new to Stewardship! We are grateful to the guidance and mentorship given to us throughout the process from Chris Thompson, Phil Glandon, Jay Wilcox, Melanie Jacobs, Mark Drew, Leslie Winters, and Vicki Zust.

We agreed as a Vestry to wait until Vicki came on board as rector to determine our Stewardship Theme, schedule, goals, and implementation plan. We used this interim time to review past years' schedules and plans, and we familiarized ourselves with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) resources available to us. Jay gave us so much of his precious time and talent to help explain how he had set things up, what went well, what he wished he had done, and to give us advice. By the time Vicki came, we were ready to go – and she was, too!

“Saint Mark’s is part of my living and part of my community, from fellowship to worship to refreshment. As a member of our parish, it’s my turn to give back.”



“Every Perfect Gift” was the 2021 theme – we decided this year to not only celebrate the financial gifts He’s given us, but also the gifts of time and talent by asking our parishioners to indicate the areas of the church that they are already involved in, as well as the areas they are interested in finding out more about. We used a local printer to print our cards this year, with a quicker turn-around. We had an abbreviated Pledge Campaign this year – letters were mailed out on 10/2, Kickoff was on the 10/10, Speaker on 10/17, and ingathering was on 10/24.

As of January 31, we had received 101 pledges for a total of \$401,867.40, which is \$10,413 more than the total pledged last year (although the number of pledges had dropped by 5). 40 of the 101 pledgers increased their pledge amounts, and there were 11 new pledgers! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

With all the wonderful pledges of time, talent, and treasure, we are able to do great things – thank you to everyone at Saint Mark’s who contributes in so many ways.

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Boop and Julia Johnson-Davis



Music

The year 2021 has been a year full of considerable change and transition, a time of unsettling anxiety mingled with signs of hope for the future. The continuing COVID-19 pandemic, with its many evolving phases in the past year, has cast a pall over everything, forcing us to rethink nearly everything that we do in community with others. This is especially true for church musicians, for whom acting in community is an essential part of our ministry.

Saint Mark's began the year still fully remote, live-streaming our Sunday worship with just a skeleton crew of ministry leaders, including our interim organist Bob Wisniewski and a single cantor to sing the hymns, service music, and psalm. The Saint Mark's Choir provided occasional virtual choir anthems for services in January and February, including for Ash Wednesday. Improving case numbers and the new availability of a vaccine allowed Saint Mark's to reopen for public worship in time for Holy Week. Although our in-person music arrangements remained the same for the Holy Week services (organ and cantor), members of both choirs collaborated for a series of beautiful virtual choir hymns and anthems for each of these major services, providing a welcome dose of choral music both for those attending in person and for those worshipping online. Once our staff singers were fully vaccinated in May, we were able to resume some limited choral music, sung one-on-a-part, for the first time in fourteen months. It was a great joy to resume singing and conducting ensemble music again after so long a hiatus.

“There is much to be hopeful about, both at Saint Mark's and beyond, if we can embrace the opportunity to come together as a community and carry on in the face of these challenges.”



In the same month, the CDC announced a loosening of restrictions for all vaccinated individuals, effectively recommending that vaccinated individuals could go back to doing the things that they used to do before the pandemic, including ensemble singing. This announcement allowed Saint Mark's to resume congregational singing for the first time, appropriately on the Feast of Pentecost. The new recommendations also allowed the Saint Mark's Choir to return joyfully to action over the summer, initially singing with masks but eventually discarding them for a brief period in July.

Midsummer also brought welcome news of the calling of Pastor Vicki as our incoming rector. One of Pastor Vicki's first actions was to approve the launch of our search for a new permanent organist at Saint Mark's, a position left vacant since Tyler Robertson's departure in October 2020. Co-chair Ted Meyers and I assembled an outstanding search committee of fellow parishioners, including Steve Barker, Cheryl Boop, Amy Brokken, and Dianne Silliman, and we began the work of reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and planning in-person visits of finalist candidates.

The emergence of the dangerous Delta variant in late summer interrupted much of the optimism that had prevailed in June and July, forcing us to rethink our plans quickly for the fall. Although we had been hoping to restart the Canterbury Choir as normal in September, we felt it necessary to pivot to a hybrid format in which vaccinated



Music

choristers would gather in person while unvaccinated choristers would participate via Zoom. The choir had a successful hybrid choir camp in September, which included fun outdoor social activities for all choristers, including movie night and tailgating for the OSU-Oregon football game. Our group of vaccinated choristers was a little too small to lead worship by themselves, so they instead learned the soprano parts of some simpler adult choir anthems, which they sang together with the adult choir on their assigned Sundays in September, October, and November.

After a brief hiatus in August, the Saint Mark's Choir resumed rehearsals with the hope of mounting a normal fall season. The group began its season by singing for Pastor Vicki's first Sunday on September 5, a wonderful event full of hope and promise. Less than two weeks later, however, the choir experienced its own Covid outbreak, with five of its members testing positive, this despite everyone being vaccinated, singing distanced with masks, and opening windows for extra ventilation. This led to a brief shutdown of choral activities for both choirs, after which we instituted additional safety precautions, including the use of church-provided KN95 masks for singing and the exclusive use of the larger nave for rehearsals, due to its better airflow than the smaller choir room. Despite this brief interruption, the Saint Mark's Choir was able to put on all of its usual special services for the fall, including services of Choral Evensong in October and November, a service of Choral Eucharist for the Feast of Christ the King in November, and a glorious return of our Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols in early December.



In late October, we said goodbye to our interim organist Bob Wisniewski, who had served the parish with faithfulness and great artistry since January, when he had to leave for another position to which he had previously committed. In his stead, we were pleased to welcome our new interim organist Jefferson McConnaughey, who bravely stepped in during the one of the busiest times of the year, beautifully carrying us through a series of special services November and December, including a joyous return of in-person services on Christmas Eve. Late November also included the wonderful news of the calling of Michael Schreffler as the new permanent organist at Saint Mark's beginning January 10, the culmination of a successful search that featured numerous outstanding candidates from across the country.

I am deeply grateful to the organist search committee (and to the singers who participated in parts of the in-person auditions) for all the time and effort that went into this search, and I am thrilled with the result. Michael is a deeply talented and experienced church musician, and he is poised to continue our tradition of outstanding organ music at Saint Mark's.

The end of the year brought one more welcome piece of good news, as a Covid vaccine was approved in November for children ages 5 to 12. This allowed the younger choristers of the Canterbury Choir finally to get vaccinated and to resume singing in person with the older choristers of the choir. The full group rehearsed together in early December for the first time since March 2020, in time to sing as an ensemble for our Festival of Lessons and Carols. The group then was able to sing in-person for our beloved Christmas Pageant service on Christmas Eve, the resumption of a wonderful tradition that had been limited to a virtual production the year before.

The new year arrives under a continuing shadow of uncertainty, with the emergence of the Omicron variant and general weariness over the duration of the pandemic. Nevertheless, there is much to be hopeful about, both at Saint Mark's and beyond, if we can embrace the opportunity to come together as a community and carry on in the face of these challenges.

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Bester, Director of Music



Adult Formation

Adult Formation offerings continued in 2021 under the leadership of interim rector Rev Chris Thompson and then our new rector Rev Vicki Zust when she arrived in September.

During the time Rev Chris was with us, he led a Sunday Adult Formation class on “Episcopal 101” in January and February and also a discussion of Brian McLaren’s book *The Secret Message of Jesus* beginning in January on Wednesday evening and shifting later to the Sunday morning time. Also on January 6, Judith Grant concluded her series on the historical role of religion in politics and race begun in December with a session on Evangelical Movements and Presidential Politics: 1970-1980s.

After Rev Vick became rector, Adult Formation offerings on Sunday mornings before church during the remainder of 2021 were as follows:

- September 5 – no meeting; welcome Sunday for Rev Vicki
- September 12 – St Paul’s Conversion (Judith Grant)
- September 19 – When did St Paul live and how do we know? (Dan Morton)
- September 26 – Who are those people in St Paul’s letters? (Dan Morton)
- October 3 – no meeting; pet blessing Sunday
- October 10 – St Mark’s past, present and future part 1 (Rev Vicki)
- October 17– St Mark’s past, present and future part 2 (Rev Vicki)
- October 24– St Mark’s past, present and future part 3 (Rev Vicki)
- October 31– St Mark’s past, present and future part 4 (Rev Vicki)
- November 7 – first “First Sunday” session (Pam Thurston) – “Welcome Home” which is the re-entry project for released prisoners; Johnny Turner, the Re-entry Coordinator for Franklin County’s Office of Justice Policy & Programs
- November 14 – “Hey, Philemon, there’s a letter for you” (Dan Morton)
- November 21 – A Tale of Two Letters: St Paul and Pliny the Younger (Dan Morton)
- November 28 – no meeting; Thanksgiving holiday weekend
- December 5 – “First Sunday” session – Migration Ministry (Joyce Acton) with short video about Community Refugee and Immigration Services (known as “CRIS”)
- December 12 – Exploring the birth narratives of Jesus in Matthew & Luke (Rev Vicki)
- December 19 – Exploring the birth narratives of Jesus in Matthew & Luke (Rev Vicki)
- December 26 – no meeting; Christmas holiday weekend

There were no regular weekday Adult Formation offerings. On Saturday, December 4, Rev Vicki offered an Advent Quiet Morning to reflect on Advent themes.

During 2021, Judith Grant was Vestry representative for Parish Life, including Adult Formation. An Adult Formation planning committee was formed in November to assist Rev Vicki with Adult Formation topics and presenters. The members of the planning committee are Judith Grant (liaison from the vestry), Dan Morton, Marilyn Smith and Scott Milburn.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Morton



Children and Youth Formation

Winter/Spring 2021 Remote Sunday Format

Adapting Children and Youth Formation programming from the sacred space of Saint Mark's to the world of Zoom took many practice tries, much teamwork, a good bit of patience, and a whole lot of imagination. And, as God would have it, it worked in ways we didn't expect. We gathered every week from January to May. On Saturdays, families received "Weekly Notes for Children, Youth & Families," which was an email that included curriculum notes, activity downloads, announcements, and a secure Zoom link for the next day. On Sunday mornings children logged on wearing footie pajamas or eating Cheerios, from the kitchen or bedroom or living room or from Grandma's house. Children brought their pets and stuffed animal friends and ukuleles and Lego creations. We gathered as one group at 9:45 a.m. for a greeting and songs. At 10 a.m. Jim Keyes led a transition song, and children were separated into age-based breakout groups of Godly Play (preK – Kindergarten), Children's Chapel (grade school), and Youth Group (grades 6-12).

Zoom sessions were managed by Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt and David Markwardt. Following TEC Safe Church guidelines, sessions were recorded and two adults were in attendance at each breakout room. Some weeks breakout groups were combined, depending on attendance. We ended just before 10:30 so that children and youth could join the 10:30 worship service.

During Lent, children in Godly Play and Children's Chapel participated in a special three-part online curriculum called "The Lord's Prayer Project," which focused on the many forms of prayer and encouraged a deeper understanding of The Lord's Prayer. Teens in Youth Group participated in online games, formed a closed discord group for fellowship, and participated in Fr. Chris Thompsons series, "Episcopal 101."

Confirmation

Pentecost Sunday was particularly special this year with the Columbus Area Confirmation ceremony, in which eight Saint Mark's youth and one adult were confirmed by The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs, Jr. with laying on of hands. Prior to the ceremony, all confirmands were required to complete activities within their church and to participate in a 5-week diocesan-led online formation series called, "The Episcopal Tradition Through Stories and Conversation." The ceremony took place in person and was followed by an outdoor reception.

Outreach Projects

With money dedicated by the Outreach Ministry and the Youth Warden's leadership, the youth group developed a project to support Open Shelter, which provides services for homeless and marginally-housed people in Central Ohio. Members of Youth Group researched the needs of the recipients, purchased the necessary supplies, and then assembled 175 toiletry and medical supply kits to be distributed to clients of Open Shelter.

In addition, Children and Youth Formation organized a parish-wide book donation drive and collected 584 new and gently used books for NNEMAP.

Parish Refresh

The Children's and Youth programs were each given \$500 in funding as part of the overall Parish Refresh project. The classrooms in the Christian Education hallway were cleaned and decluttered. The craft supply room was completely reorganized with the installation of wall shelving, and new art was purchased to liven up the hallway.

Youth Warden Henry Markwardt led the effort to redecorate the Youth Lounge. The youth met and discussed priorities, especially taking into consideration how other groups beside theirs use the space. They purchased new furniture, redecorated the walls, and replaced a dining room table with a ping-pong table. It should be noted that the ping pong table, which was generously donated, has become a very popular reason to be in the Teen Lounge.



Children and Youth Formation

Diocesan Council Meeting

Newly elected Provisional Bishop Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith met with Saint Mark's Youth at the DSO Diocesan Council Meeting held Aug. 28. The meeting agenda included a bible study of Mark 7:24-30 as all as updates of diocesan efforts in Beloved Community and Care of Creation. Members of Saint Mark's Youth learned about the function of the council and governance of the Episcopal Church from Pastor Vicki, they observed a portion of the meeting, and then met with Bishop Smith for a special Q&A session in the newly refreshed Youth Lounge.

Fall Formation Survey

With input from both Adult and Children and Youth Formation leaders, Pastor Vicki developed a formation survey that was distributed widely to parishioners to get feedback on what programs are offered and how (and when) they are offered. This was particularly valuable to Children and Youth Formation leaders to know when parents would be comfortable to resume in-person programming. We also received feedback about thoughts on Youth Group and other intergenerational programming such as VBS and Wednesday Evenings at Saint Marks, which will be incorporated in future programming.

Fall 2021 Return to In-Person Format

Church School (aka Sunday School): Church School for children in preschool through fifth grade begins at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Children's Formation (for all ages) and continues at the start of the 10:30 worship service with Godly Play (for Prek – Kindergarten) and Children's Chapel (grades 1 - 5). At approximately 11:05 a.m. children re-join their families in the sanctuary at the sign of the Peace for participation in The Holy Communion.

Church School does not take place on the first Sundays of the month. This is to encourage children's participation in the First Sundays Outreach project and in the First Sundays 10:30 worship service where they gather on the steps near the altar to take part in the homily. Parishioners and guests were particularly thrilled with Pastor Vicki's Brown Bag Sermon in December, in which she asked children to bring an item from home to place inside a brown bag. Each item was then used as a part of the sermon. Children typically also join the sanctuary to attend baptisms, however, there were no public baptisms in 2021.

Following COVID guidelines, all teachers and children wore masks, and when the weather permitted, Church School took place outside in the Butterfly Garden and Play Area.

Sunday Children's Formation: Sunday Children's Formation occurs from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.; the same time as Adult Formation. Children are greeted by a stuffed animal accompanied by a letter from Pastor Vicki. The children have been taking that animal with them into the sanctuary and look forward to the animal and note each week. During formation, children participate in songs led by Jim Keyes, and stories and crafts led by Laura Skoracki and Joanne Drew.

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 first through fifth grades are taught by Joanne Drew with assistance by Catherine Davis. In Children's Chapel children learn the language and symbols used in the Church through art, song, and storytelling. The order of service includes the tolling of a bell, lighting of the altar candles, a hymn, an opening prayer, and is followed by an age-appropriate retelling of that week's liturgical reading, interactive discussion, and hands-on activity.

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. Pastor Vicki led youth group in Fall 2021 with Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt assisting. We met once a month on First Sundays, to facilitate participation and connections to the other activities in the church on those days. They first share lunch during the coffee hour



Children and Youth Formation

after church and then have an activity. Youth planned activities, learned about using Labyrinth for prayer, and made cookies and Rice Krispies treats for the December cookie walk. Youth also resumed contributing significantly to worship at St. Mark's, with a large group of youth acolytes and members of Saint Mark's Canterbury Choir.

2021 Holiday Events

Easter Egg Hunt: We were not able to host the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Saint Mark's due to COVID restrictions on in-person activities; however, to keep this wonderful traditional Laura Skoracki spearheaded a remote Easter Egg hunt. Families of children could request that youth hide eggs at their homes. Youth stuffed more than 100 plastic eggs with candies and trinkets then quietly hid them at those family's homes, giving a fun surprise and connection to the Saint Mark's community.

Pumpkin Carving: We once again collaborated with the Marksmen to host an intergeneration pumpkin carving event outside on the patio. We also provided art supplies to decorate small pumpkin gourds for those who wished to create in that way. Children and adults guessed the number of candies in jars and ate Halloween treats. We moved the event to coincide with Sunday morning Fellowship Hour, which enabled lots of participation and conversation.

Advent Wreath-Making Workshop: Formation combined efforts with the Flower Guild to co-sponsor the Saint Mark's annual Advent Wreath-Making Workshop. This intergenerational event took place in person in the parish hall during Fellowship Hour and was a fun and fragrant way to start the season of Advent. We provided with an advent kit of fresh greens, wreath-making supplies, and educational resources for celebrating Advent at home. Members of the Flower Guild were on hand to help guide their assembly.

Christmas Pageant: We were blessed by a return to in-person Christmas pageant. With some refreshing of costumes and props as well as the addition of masks, we were thrilled to see the children participate once again in this beloved tradition at Saint Mark's.

Children and Youth Formation includes Joanne Drew, Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, Irina Reed, and Laura Skoracki with Formation Assistants Jim Keyes, Dave Markwardt, and Catherine Wallenbrock.

Respectfully submitted by the Children and Youth Formation Team

"My sons are now young adults. I am praying that at some point, they too find a church with the red doors."





Hospitality

Hospitality is a parish-wide ministry whose goal is to facilitate a welcoming sense of community for all people, whether they are long-time parishioners, new members, out of town visitors, church shoppers, those who nervously peer through the doors of a church for the first time, or those who have come back to the church after being away for a long time. Feeling in connection with one another is a vital part of well-being, and that need may be no more deeply felt than when it is restricted. In 2021 there was not a vestry person with an assigned role as Hospitality Chair as was historically done at Saint Mark's, and anyway COVID caused the cancellation of many in-person milestone life celebrations and traditional parish gatherings. Even still, the people of Saint Mark's invented creative new ways throughout the year to gather safely to welcome the stranger, stay in community, and celebrate fellowship. (Many activities and meetings were convened online and allowed parishioners to stay in connection; however, this report focuses on the in-person events that took place in 2021.)

“The people of Saint Mark's invented creative new ways throughout the year to gather safely to welcome the stranger, stay in community, and celebrate fellowship.”

- We thank the greeters and ushers (under the leadership of Gloria Wylie) who are the first face of Saint Mark's and who every week and throughout the pandemic guide parishioners to safe seating inside the sanctuary. In addition, COVID guidelines mandated the staffing of a contact tracing table, which provides a great opportunity to smile, say hello, and hear the name of each person who comes to our doors. Newcomers are welcomed with a Saint Mark's gift mug that contains goodies and contact information.
- By early summer, state, city, and diocesan guidelines for gathering were relaxed and on May 23, Pentecost Sunday, Saint Mark's was host to the diocesan Columbus Area Confirmation with The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs presiding. After the ceremony an outdoor community reception took place on the patio and lawn.
- Fellowship Hour Committee resumed serving hot and cold drinks and individually wrapped goodies following both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. Due to COVID restrictions, coffee service and light snacks are served outdoors on the patio, weather permitting. Under Cindy Anderson's leadership, teams were re-formed for weekly preparation and cleanup, and a very special thank you goes to the following members for their grace and good work:

First Sundays	Roberta Morton & Cindy Anderson
Second Sundays	Julia Davis & Julie Moll
Third Sundays	Bill Karl & Pattie Blakey
Fourth Sundays	Dianne Silliman & Barb Keyes
Fifth Sundays	Cindy Anderson & Barb Keyes

The return of Fellowship Hour is notable because it allows parishioners to regularly catch-up and connect with one another and greet and welcome newcomers. And the fact that Fellowship Hour was extended to the patio makes that brand of Saint Mark's goodwill visible to passersby.

- Later in June, the Search Committee brought The Rev. Vicki Zust to Saint Mark's to meet the vestry and to give a sermon. A light hors d'oeuvres reception followed in the Christian Education wing with dinner provided in the Canterbury Center. These new spaces were chosen to allow scheduled support group meetings to continue without interruption.
- In July, we bid a fond farewell to Interim Rector Chris Thompson and his wife Mary Jo, thanking them for their extraordinary service to Saint Mark's with a garden reception that included cake, punch, and a massive Thank You yard sign.



Hospitality

- In August, the Canterbury Choir utilized the patio and breezeway for a Friday outdoor movie night during their season kickoff Parent Potluck and a Saturday afternoon OSU tailgate party at the culmination of their annual Canterbury Choir camp. These were two new kinds of events that had not previously taken place at Saint Mark's (at least not in recent memory).
- The diocese chose Saint Mark's as a venue for the Diocesan Council to hold its August bi-monthly meeting, which was open to all and included a bible study led by newly elected Bishop Provisional Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith. The meeting was held in the Parish Hall with a continental breakfast, coffee service, snacks, and boxed lunches served on the patio. In addition to presiding over the meeting, Bishop Smith held a special Q&A session with Saint Mark's youth group in the newly redecorated Youth Lounge.
- In September Saint Mark's welcomed our new Rector, Vicki Zust, with a lovely cake and punch reception on the patio. A 'Saint Mark's Welcomes Pastor Vicki' sign on the front lawn stayed up through all of Labor Day weekend to let the community of Upper Arlington welcome her too.
- Throughout the month of September, the Welcoming Committee hosted a series of drop-in gatherings called 'Cookies and Lemonade with Vicki' to give parishioners opportunities to meet Pastor Vicki. These took place in various places around campus, including the patio, Butterfly Garden, and Bishop's Library.
- Supper Club began gathering outdoors on the patio and enjoyed it so much that as the weather turned colder they brought in a patio heater to stay out longer. Supper Club gathered outdoors every month from June through November.
- In addition to these events, in 2021 Saint Mark's hosted one wedding and four memorial services, two of which included receptions, as well as the Labor Day Bake Sale, Fall Ministry Fair, Halloween Pumpkin Carving, Advent Wreath-Making Workshop, and Christmastime Outreach Cookie Walk. For events in which the consumption or selling of food was involved, the planning committees took decisive steps to stay within safe guidelines by utilizing outdoor spaces and clearly marked areas where food and drink were allowed.

While we look forward to returning to some of our time-honored and beloved traditions for gathering, necessary precautions for health and safety caused us to rethink the ways we gather and make creative use of inside and outside spaces throughout all of Saint Mark's campus—practices we will continue long after COVID has left us.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Drew

Stephen Ministry

Saint Mark's is fortunate to have a very active Stephen Ministry. We have fourteen members who have not only gone through 50 hours of training but also meet twice monthly to share ideas. This past year the Stephen Ministers attended informative continuing education sessions on Communicating Effectively with people experiencing dementia and their families and had Brenda Hammersley speak to us about care receivers experiencing grief.

Our fourteen Stephen Ministers provide regular confidential meetings with parishioners who are experiencing a difficult time. Stephen Ministers "walk with" parishioners and provide listening ears to those who are grieving, ill, lonely, providing care for a family member, or struggling with other life issues. We all are continuing to navigate through the pandemic and its many challenges, and St. Mark's Stephen Ministry is a caring group to consider contacting.

Respectfully submitted by the Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Pat Barton (patricia-barton@columbus.rr.com)

Dianne Silliman (dlsilliman@gmail.com)

Michele Johnson (micheleljohnson@gmail.com)

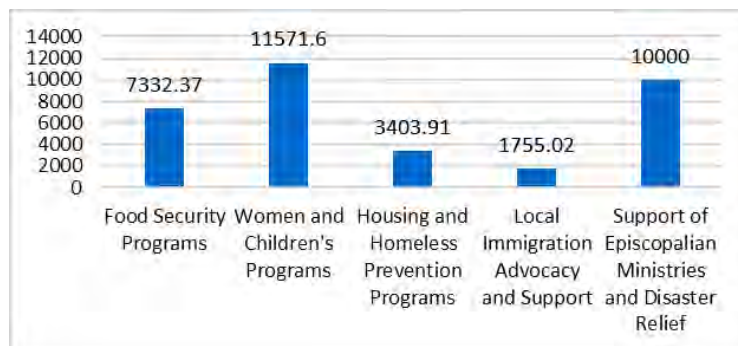


Outreach Ministry

Despite the pandemic, this was a good year for the Outreach Ministry. Due to the generous gifts of Saint Mark's members, we were able to continue and grow our ministry. Some of the highlights include:

- The team supporting St. John Town Street's Godly Table was taken on by new leadership and adapted to serving a full meal outside.
- Our relationship with Trinity Episcopal McArthur expanded to joining a multi-church consortium assisting them with the repair of their historic church.
- Outreach expanded programming to include the First Sunday Projects, bringing speakers and activities to the entire parish the first Sunday of each month. The goal of this was to increase the number of congregants participating in outreach.
- Expanded programming by starting a welcome home project, assisting people coming home from prison
- Made a substantial gift to support the victims of the tornados that hit our neighbors in Kentucky.
- Provided ongoing financial, material, and emotional support for an asylum-seeking family who was relocated to Columbus.
- Committed to NNEMAP to provide \$500 of diapers and wipes each month for a year. This was in addition to our commitment to make spice packets each month. With the youth group we also conducted a book drive for NNEMAP.
- Sponsored a youth group outreach project. The youth group made up grooming/ medical kits for the Open Shelter
- The Labor Neighbor Day Bake Sale and the Cookie Walk returned, raising about \$2200 for NNEMAP and \$775 for Freedom al a Cart. A football ticket raffle was added to the Bake Sate.
- The Layette Shower returned on the patio and was a big success.

Distribution of Support by Category





Outreach Ministry

"Saint Mark's is a place we have become rooted in. In it, we have acquired a whole new family that we love and that loves us back."



The Outreach Ministry started the year with \$28,660 in reserves. The ministry received \$6600 from the church budget and \$14,761 in directed donations for a total of \$21,361 in income. The ministry spent \$34,063 and ended the year with \$15,960. The money was spent in the following categories:

Food Security Programs

- NNEMAP Food Pantry
- St John Dinners
- Street Church

Women and Children Programs

- Layette Program
- Women Affirming Women
- Human Trafficking- CATCH/ Freedom
- NNEMAP Diaper Program

Housing and Homelessness Prevention

- Open Shelter
- Habitat for Humanity
- Star House
- Welcome Home Ministry

Local Immigration and Advocacy Support

- CRIS- Community Refugee and Immigration Services
- Asylum Seeking Family Adoption
- Artisans Beyond Borders

Support of Episcopalian Ministries Beyond the Parish and Disaster Relief

- Episcopal Relief and Development
- Episcopal Migration Ministries
- Kentucky Fund (Tornado Relief)
- Trinity Renovation Collaboration



Communications

The Communications Team of Bill Mayr and Joanne Drew came together in fall 2020 with the initiation of a Website Refresh Committee formed by then Senior Warden Dot Yeager. In addition to Bill and Joanne, the Website Refresh Committee included interim rector Chris Thompson, Dot Yeager, Dan Morton, Matthew Bester, Margaret Wells, and Melanie Jacobs. It was formed to restructure the website to make it relevant, dynamic and user friendly, and to project a clean image of Saint Mark's. The committee felt this work was especially needed to attract newcomers during a time of online-only worship, as well as to anticipate advertising for the rector search in Spring 2021.

During this refresh and in consultation with the diocesan communications director, Julie Murray, the committee was informed that the server on which Saint Mark's website is currently hosted, is being replaced with a larger and more secure server. While this means we are required to replace our current website, it also gives us the opportunity to significantly upgrade it. Pastor Vicki joined this effort in Fall 2021 and currently oversees this work. Somewhat like building a house, Joanne and Bill began putting together the 'framework' for the new site. As part of this process, committees and other groups with content on the current site will be asked whether they wish to have their content updated. In addition, Vicki commissioned CJ Milburn to take photographs at Saint Mark's events. We project to have the new website operational by Spring/Summer 2022.

In addition to working on the website, Bill and Joanne began to work together with Office Manager Melanie Jacobs to improve overall internal and external communications for clarity, consistency, and better access. This included the monthly Epistle, the weekly service leaflet and announcement bulletin, and other notices sent to parishioners via email; communications.

In addition to livestreaming worship and evensong services on Saint Mark's Facebook page, Chris Thompson produced and posted weekly 2- to 3-minute video messages to the parish. This was an especially good way for Fr. Chris to remain visible to parishioners during the time when in-person worship was not allowed.

To alleviate email burden, the use of Constant Contact (our email program) was streamlined into primary message categories and sent on a scheduled basis. These include:

- ***This Week at Saint Mark's*** – This compact newsletter includes general information and announcements of upcoming activities for the week ahead. It also often includes items in advance of that to allow parishioners time to mark it on their calendars. This online newsletter is especially useful as it includes direct links to relevant websites for more detail. It is sent to subscribers' email boxes at 2 p.m. on Fridays and is posted to Saint Mark's Facebook page and front page of Saint Mark's website.
- ***Sunday Reminders*** – These include announcements culled from the above that are relevant only to that day. It includes a list of those serving in the worship service, and it is sent to email subscribers email boxes on Sunday mornings at 7 a.m.
- ***Pastoral Notes*** – Notices of special sensitivity and concern such as the death of a parishioner; sent to subscribers' email boxes as the occasion arises. These also are published in the monthly Epistle.
- ***Special Updates*** – Important and time-sensitive announcements that cannot or should not wait until the regular announcement outlets. These have included COVID-related guideline changes and the announcement of our new rector; sent sparingly and as the occasion arises. These message are also posted on Saint Mark's Facebook page and front page of Saint Mark's website.
- ***Weekly Notes for Children, Youth and Families*** – Curriculum notes, downloadable activities, online resources, and announcements relevant for children's and youth online formation programming; sent to subscribers' email boxes and posted to the website every Saturday for the following Sunday online service. This was put on hiatus when in-person formation resumed in September 2021.



Communications

Regarding access to information, the open rate (the number of people who receive and open the email as compared to the number of people it is sent to) for messages sent via Constant Contact is concerningly low, and hovers around 50%. We recognize this issue and that for some parishioners, email is not their preferred method of receiving communications. For this reason, in addition to communications sent via regular mail, access to information via the website became a top priority in 2021. In addition to livestream worship, parishioners and guests can now access weekly announcements, worship service leaflets, vestry meeting minutes, annual meeting reports, calendar of scheduled meetings and special events, instructions how to access online activities, videos of formation activities, and the monthly Epistle at www.SaintMarksColumbus.org.

Looking toward 2022, the Communications Team will continue to improve access to information that is relevant, open, and clear. In addition, we will continue to build the new website. We also will examine the use of social media, including Instagram, Vimeo, and YouTube, in addition to Facebook and Constant Contact.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Mayr



“The lasting friendships I’ve made here at Saint Mark’s are a great joy. Saint Mark’s is a wonderful, vibrant place to be.”

SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



2151 DORSET ROAD ■ COLUMBUS, OHIO 43221 ■ (614) 486-9452
info@saintmarkscolumbus.org ■ www.saintmarkscolumbus.org

Staff:

The Rev. Vicki Zust, *Rector*
Dr. Matthew Bester, *Director of Music*
Michael Schreffler, *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

Vestry Members:

Mark Drew, *Senior Warden*
Leslie Winters, *Junior Warden*
Henry M., *Youth Warden*
Cheryl Boop, *Stewardship*
Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, *Formation*
Anice Ellis, *Search Committee Liaison*
Judith Grant, *Parish Life*
Jay Iams, *Member Connection*
Julia Johnson-Davis, *Stewardship*
Marilyn Karl, *Member Connection*
Bill Mayr, *Communications*
Irina Reed, *Formation*
Roman Skoracki
Sam Slee



Phil Glandon, *Treasurer*
Barbara Hyre, *Clerk*

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*

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.