A Monthly Newsletter of Saint Mark's, Columbus

November 2022 • Issue 283

Stories of Saint Mark's

Humility - Gratitude - Accountability

By Scott Milburn Saint Mark's Parishioner



My family and I have been part of Saint Mark's for over ten years. My wife is Stephanie. Our older son, Peter, is in college now. Our younger son, Cl, is an acolyte. We call Saint Mark's our church, but we don't own it. I call Peter and CJ my children, but I certainly don't own them. I refer to my house, I refer to my money, I refer to my life, but these are not things I can honestly say that I possess. In all of them I am a stakeholder. I can push to influence outcomes, but if I go too far it never really goes well.

I am a caretaker. I am a steward. And I look over all these things until I can pass them on to someone else.

Money is the confusing part of it for me. I've always had jobs which were difficult, time consuming, and hard to get. I work hard, I get the money, and so it's mine. That's the way it works, right?

"I was able to understand stewardship better when I realized that money didn't really have a lot to do with it. It is about the underlying pieces. It is about humility. *It is about gratitude.*

It is about accountability that we all have to each other.

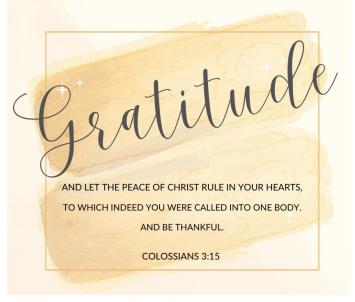
I've come to learn that faith has something to tell me about this.

We think about faith for all the good stuff. It's the touchstone that we think about all the cool, beneficial things God brings to us: we have faith in the resurrection - that's good. We have faith in God's love. I have faith that God wants good things for me and my family. Those all become powerful for me only through faith because I can't necessarily touch or see them.

However, we don't have the luxury of only using faith for what benefits us. I think we have to also have faith in the truth of the things that we don't necessarily like or want to accept.

For me, recognizing that my things are not all mine -- that my money is not all mine - is something that took me a while to get. I have to have faith in the value of stewardship of money, even though it doesn't always make sense. I think it's part of the deal we're in - the covenant we have - with God.

Continued on page 4, see Gratitude



Thank you for all you bring to the story of Saint Mark's.

Pledges for 2023 are still being gratefully received. You can find more information about stewardship, including the current campaign, annual pledging, year-round giving and creative giving options at

www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/stewardship.



Roman and Lukas Skoracki stand by Saint Mark's newly completed storage shed, donated and built as part of Lukas' Eagle Scout project.



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Vestry meetings occur every first Tuesday of the month in the Canterbury Center. Meetings are open to parishioners. Meeting minutes are available online at: www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/vestry-meetings.

The Epistle is the monthly newsletter of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. The rolling deadline is the third Monday of the preceding month. Send photos, announcements, or story ideas for inclusion in the Epistle to: **Commmunications@saintmarkscolumbus.org.**

Stewardship Role Offers Reach to New Possibilities

By Cheryl Boop
Saint Mark's Vestry Member, Stewardship Committee Co-Chair



Saint Mark's story this year is a familiar one: when we give with love we receive so much more.

My personal story begins with my joining Saint Mark's because of the music program. Specifically, to be able to sing with its amazing choir. I had no idea that this would lead to chapters of singing in England at the Lincoln Cathedral and again at Wells, of being part of the completion of our magnificent organ, and of joining vestry. I didn't see that one coming! And then I volunteered to be on the stewardship committee because I really

felt in my heart that I need to do my part to make Saint Mark's all that I dreamed it could be.

"Because of last years' pledging and gifts, we budgeted not just to pay the bills, but to look toward the future. We put money in to the areas that make Saint Mark's special and the areas that we wanted to grow in."

Last year Julia Johnson-Davis shared that we both volunteered to be on the Stewardship Committee because we saw the potential of Saint Mark's. We had dreams about what it could become, and we wanted to financially support those dreams. Our vestry listened to the story that the Saint Mark's community told in the parish profile. We really thought about not just paying the bills, but truly supporting the areas that are important to our church family. And we started it.

Because of last years' pledging and gifts, we budgeted not just to pay the bills, but to look toward the future. We put money in to the areas that make Saint Mark's special and the areas that we wanted to grow in. We put that money into Formation, Outreach, building maintenance, and increasing our presence in the community.

I've been really excited to see Saint Mark's become the church that I personally needed.

The intergenerational projects have been actually my very favorite part and to me were an unexpected outcome. I love how active we are in the community. We've hosted diocesan events as well as a nationally touring art exhibit, we've taken part in Upper Arlington festivals, we initiated compline in the community in a Metro Park, and we continue to participate in activities we love: St. John's Street Church, CATCH Court, the Layette Ministries, the prayer groups, knitting groups, book club, the Marksmen, Supper Group.

This year Julia and I hope that each of us can find a way to help Saint Mark's continue to tell our story by using our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to go beyond what is and to reach for what we can be.

Music

Upcoming Music Programming

Dr. Matthew Bester Saint Mark's Director of Music

As the calendar marches ever onward toward November, the choirs at Saint Mark's are gearing up for some of their busiest stretches of the year, with numerous special services leading up to Advent and Christmas. First up is our annual service of Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday at 4 p.m. on November 6, an event that is one of the more meaningful services of the program year. Dedicated to all those loved ones who have gone before us, the service features readings and music that look towards heaven and the new Jerusalem. Both of the anthems for the service, including the beautiful Hubert Parry My Soul, There Is a Country, were sung as part of the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II last month.

Two weeks later, on November 20, the choir will lead a service of Choral Eucharist for the regular 10:30 Sunday service. In the Episcopal Church, we call it a Choral Eucharist when the choir alone sings the Gloria ("Glory to God in the highest"); Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy Lord"); and Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God") of the Communion Service, praying on behalf of the congregation. Otherwise, everything is the same as in a normal service of Holy Eucharist. For over a decade, the choir has sung a service of Choral Eucharist for the Feast of Christ the King, which is the last Sunday before Advent (and a new church year) begins. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the great Mass and Communion Service settings in the context for which they were written. Most often these days we hear these works mainly as concert works or on recordings. Less often do we get to hear a Mozart mass or a Howells Communion Service sung as an integrated part of the service itself. This year the choir will sing Charles Villiers Stanford's Communion Service in C and

Just two weeks after that, at 4 p.m. on December 4, the Canterbury Choir and the Saint Mark's Choir will combine for our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. If you've never attended this uplifting service before, I warmly invite you to attend this year. Lessons and Carols alternates Advent-themed lessons with beautiful music, all in preparation for the Christmas season. The service includes some of the most stirring of our Advent Hymns, such as "Come, thou Redeemer of the earth" (Puer nobis) and "Lo! he comes, with clouds descending" (Helmsley). The event will be followed by a wassail reception in the Parish Hall, back this year. It is an event not to be missed.



Upcoming Choral Services

November 6 Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 6, the Saint Mark's Choir will lead a service of Solemn Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday. Music will include the beautiful Evening Service in C by Charles Villiers Stanford, responses by John Sanders, and anthems by William Croft and Hubert Parry. Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Special Music Fund at Saint Mark's. A reception will follow. Please join us for this beautiful and inspiring service, and be sure to invite some friends!

November 20 Choral Eucharist for the Feast of Christ the King

For the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 20, the Saint Mark's Choir will continue its tradition of singing a full mass setting (Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei) as part of the regular service of Holy Eucharist for the Feast of Christ the King, which is the last Sunday of the church year. This year, the choir will sing the beautiful Communion Service in C and F by the Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924).

December 4 A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

Please save the date of Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m. for our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. A beloved parish favorite, the service includes music by both the Saint Mark's Choir and the Canterbury Choir. Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Special Music Fund at Saint Mark's. A reception will follow. Please join us, and be sure to invite some friends!

FORMATION

Adult Formation

Adult Formation meets from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the parish hall, except for the first Sundays of the month when we gather for the First Sunday Intergenerational Project.



Pastor Vicki will conclude the series: World Religions and Christian Denominations

Nov 13 The Protestant Reformation

Nov 20 Methodism; American Denominations

Recordings of the October formation sessions are available at www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/adult-formation.

Nov 6 First Sunday Intergenerational Project

Nov 13 The Protestant Reformation

Nov 20 Methodism; American Denominations

Youth Group

Youth Group, for middle- and high- school age kids, gathers for lunch and an activity on the First Sundays of the month following the 10:30 a.m. service.

November Meeting

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday November 6 following the 10:30 am service. Our topic for this meeting will be our Pilgrimage/Mission trip to Hawaii. Parents are invited, and encouraged to attend this planning meeting. We will provide lunch for youth, parents and younger family members.

Because of the Fall Festival, our timing is a little different. We will have lunch and our planning meeting starting at 12:30 pm.

YEDI pen pal program

High school students with the YEDI initiative invite all 6th -12th grade students to participate in a diocesan-wide pen pal program. You will get to know someone your age in the diocese by exchanging old-fashioned letters. By signing up to the program, you will get a welcome kit with your pen pal's name, post cards to send to your pen pal, suggestions on what to share and ask, and a flat YEDI* Sign up today at bit.ly/YEDIpenpal.

Gratitude, Cont. from front page

I was able to understand stewardship better when I realized that money didn't really have a lot to do with it. It is about the underlying pieces. It is about humility. It is about gratitude. It is about accountability that we all have to each other.

Every good and perfect gift comes from above. And because the word "gift" is there – not "wages" means we didn't do anything to earn them. These are blessings. And if we believe they are blessings, we need to take a pause and be humble about the fact that we haven't earned everything we have all on our own. The natural response to that is gratitude.

One big and important way we can express our gratitude is by using our gifts to benefit God's work on earth.

The opportunity to know and experience the source of

"We are accountable to each other in this place as members of this community.

We owe each other mutual respect, care, love, support, friendship, and humor. As members of this community, we also owe it to each other to support this community."

what we have with humility and then express our gratitude in a community of other grateful givers – that's a gift also, in and of itself. And I am grateful for Saint Mark's for being a place where we – my family and I – can express that gratitude.

Stewardship is also about accountability, which is another one of those great words that we don't always necessarily like. That's okay, because, remember, we don't always get to have faith in just the good stuff, right?

We are accountable to each other in this place as members of this community. We owe each other mutual respect, care, love, support, friendship, and humor. As members of this community, we also owe it to each other to support this community, so that it can continue to exist and thrive and nurture us, and so that we can go on to nurture each other and the wider world.

I hope as you make a decision about stewardship this season, you use it as an opportunity to ground yourself in a greater understanding of the font from which all your good and perfect gifts come. I hope that reflection generates within you a joyous gratitude, flowing from humility, and a renewed understanding of the accountability we have to one another to put our gifts to work for good.

We are blessed to be part of a community and enjoy all the gifts it gives to us. The opportunity to practice our own humility, gratitude, and accountability in the form of good stewardship is just another gift.

FORMATION

Children Wonder, Discover Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom of God



Jesus spoke to his disciples about a place unlike anything they had ever heard of before, and in order to help them imagine it he likened it to things they could feel and touch. Things like crops and seeds and weeds and rocks and dirt and nets full of fish. Or things they already imagined but which they believed were unattainable. Things like hidden treasure and expensive jewelry. In Children's Formation we have been exploring these stories, and we have been imagining what qualities Jesus wanted us to think about when we think about the Kingdom of God. Here are a few of the things we've asked ourselves. Try it out. See what you come up with that you hadn't thought of before:

The Kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field that a person found and covered up; then in their joy, sold everything they had so the could buy the field."

- I wonder why this person saw it but no one else did?
- What things (or people) do I treasure?

The Kingdom of God is like a shop owner in search of fine pearls who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all they had so they could buy it."

- I wonder what could make something so precious that a person would exchange absolutely everything they had for it?
- Think of (or make up) a story about someone who did something really crazy so they could have what was the most important thing to them?



The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which a person took and planted in a field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree so that birds come and perch in its branches.

- I wonder what happens to the seed when it stops growing?
- I wonder if a person could take the tree that grew and push it all the back down inside the seed again?

The Kingdom of God is like yeast, which a person took and mixed into three measures of flour until it worked all the way through the dough.

- What actually happens to the yeast cells when they touch water and flour and salt?
- I wonder if dough is four individual things (water and flour and yeast and salt) or does it need all four of those things to become itself?

We didn't just think about dough—we made it! And enjoyed tasty soft pretzels afterward. A Parables of the Kingdom of God Activity Packet with the recipe and all the activities we've been doing this fall is available to www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/ download at children-and-youth-formation.

No matter how old you are, keep wondering about the Kingdom of God!

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work— Volunteers are loved, appreciated, and very much needed!

We love our parent, grandparent, and teen volunteers and Children's Formation needs more of you! No experience or long-term commitment is necessary - all you need is to enjoy kids and fun!

For more information, please contact: Joanne Drew (jdrew627@gmail.com) Laura Skoracki (lauragatsos@hotmail.com)

or Pastor Vicki (rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org).

Looking Ahead....

The last Sunday in November is the First Sunday in Advent. It is also Thanksgiving weekend, a traditionally lightly attended Children's Formation day, and we are not scheduled to formally gather. However, we have been known to have impromptu fun. If you have families with children visiting you for the holidays bring them (or send them) to church!

PASTORAL CARE

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Grief Support: Holidays – Bah humbug!

By Brenda Hammersley, RN MSN MBA Certified Grief Counselor, Saint Mark's Parishioner

"Your absence is loud this holiday season."

David Kessler

Pumpkins and mums are everywhere and soon we'll have trick or treaters at the door, then a Thanksgiving feast followed by advent and Christmas, capped off by New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The holidays are on their way, and you may worry about how you'll navigate this time when the world claims to be full of joy and love, but you are sitting with the pain of loss. If you feel like yelling "Bah, humbug!" try avoiding common holiday snares using these tips to protect your heart while others deck the halls. Avoid the Busy-ness Trap: staying extremely busy as a distraction from the holidays only wears you out making you more vulnerable to becoming overwhelmed. It also hinders your grieving. Try instead to:

- Skip holiday events if you are in overload or too tired or sad to join in.
- Skip sending holiday cards if it's too depressing and don't feel guilty about not sending them this year.
- Minimize decorations if they aren't bringing you joy you'll see a lot of decorations outside of your home.
- Prioritize and don't overcommit. Save your energy for the parties, dinners, events and gatherings that are most important to YOU. Tell those who extend invitations that you'll try to stop by for a while, and if you feel up to it go, but drive yourself so you can leave when needed.
- Avoid total isolation. Being alone at times is important in grief but cutting yourself off from others is not good for your mental, physical and spiritual health.
- Beware of the Santa Syndrome: giving lots of gifts, time, money and energy in an attempt to convince everyone including yourself that you're okay is not a healthy coping technique. Try instead to:
- Minimize or skip gifts this year. Talk with family and friends so they know you don't have the energy to shop and exchange gifts right now.
- Make a list of what you do want to buy ahead and keep it handy for a "good day." Leverage the power of online shopping but don't let your heart take over your wallet.
- Use lists more than you normally do to prevent overbuying. Grieving brains have a tough time concentrating and remembering details.

- Go to a grief group. You'll learn some tips and techniques discovered by others who are also struggling.
- Stay away from the Expectation Treadmill: pleasing other people with old traditions and routines will rob you of precious energy that you need for processing your grief during the holidays. Try instead to:
- Make a conscious decision about what traditions you want to keep this year and which you want to alter or omit.
- Create a new tradition in your loved one's memory such as a charitable donation in their name.
- Decide how and where you want to spend the holidays and let the people in your life know your plans.
- Communicate honestly what you do and don't want to do.
- Say bye-bye to your own perfectionism. Accept that this year may not be perfect and that is okay!
- Skip the holidays completely if you just can't face them this year. But first consider if simplifying things would be a workable way to manage the holidays without being overwhelmed.
- Enjoy yourself! Don't let the holidays rule you. Instead use them to grieve well and love others. Holidays are hard and after a death they will be different but can still be good. If you're surprised to experience moments of happiness and joy don't feel guilty. They don't take away from how much you love and miss the person who has died.

Come to Saint Marks' Grief Support Group at 5 pm in the Canterbury Center on November 8 and December 13 for more tools to help navigate the holidays - you'll be glad you did. Contact Brenda Hammersley at **b.hammersley@yahoo.com** or 614-330-1436 for other information.



PARISH LIFE

All Saints' Day

November 6 is the celebration of All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day is November 1, but it is tradition to celebrate the feast on the Sunday following as well.

We remember those saints who have entered the nearer presence of Christ this year. At Saint Mark's we particularly remember those who have been interred in our Memorial Garden. There will be a short service of remembrance in the Memorial Garden at 10:00 am.

We also remember those saints who are examples of the life of faith for us now. Take some time and think about who it is in your life who shows you the presence of Christ in the world today.

Maybe take a minute and drop a note to one of the saints in your life.

All Saints' Sunday will be a busy day at Saint Mark's. In addition to the service in the Memorial Garden at 10:00 am. There will be a Fall Festival in the parish hall, youth group will meet following the 10:30 am service and there will be an Evensong at 4 pm followed by a reception.

All of these activities give us the chance to engage with one another and to meet the saints who surround us now.

Advent Begins November 27

Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ. We prepare for the celebrations of Jesus' birth at Christmas, but more importantly, we prepare for his sec-

ond coming. The season of Advent focuses on what each of us might do to be prepared for the coming of Christ. The season of Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas Eve. This year Advent began on Sunday November 27.



On Sunday November 27 there will be materials in the parish hall for making Advent wreaths to use at home. The materials will be available between the services and after the 10:30 am service.

Advent Quiet Morning December 3

A chance to take a moment, pause and reflect in the midst of a very busy season. We will meet in the Canterbury Center and will begin at 9 am with Morning Prayer. There will be a series of reflections on Advent themes read during the morning. Each one will be followed by significant time for prayer and reflection. There will be places for quiet prayer and reflection as well as spaces for conversation and art.

The morning will end with Noonday prayer.

November Parish Family Dinner

Come to the parish hall at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 9. We will open with grace and then eat dinner. We will all help clean up beginning around 6:30 pm. You don't need to sign-up. You don't need to bring anything. We will order food based on a best guess on how many people will come. If there is too much, we will send some home with you. If there isn't enough we will order a pizza to supplement.

There will be a basket for a free-will offering to offset the cost of the dinner, but no set amount

(or any donation at all) required.

Come, have dinner, talk with other Saint Mark's folk, and maybe meet someone new.

Knitting Group

Do you knit? Do you want to learn how to knit? Do you enjoy getting together with others to chat and build relationships? Do you enjoy doing something to help others? Evening Knitting Group meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Canterbury Center. The November meeting is Monday November 7. Daytime Knitting group meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm in the Canterbury Center. The November meetings are November and 17. You don't have to have any experience knitting. We will have some needles, yarn, and simple patterns for beginners. If you are a knitter, bring your current project (or yarn and needles to pick up a new one).

8 a.m. Worship Service Change

The 8 a.m. Sunday service is moving back into the Nave for the winter beginning on Sunday November 6. The service will continue to be a simple celebration of the Eucharist using Rite I, which is the older language of the Eucharistic Prayer. Those attending the service are encouraged to sit in the front four pews. The service will stay in the Nave through April, before then we will decide if the service will move back outdoors for the summer.

Flu Season and Communion

As we move into flu season and as COVID continues to be a part of our lives, just a reminder that you are asked to not practice intinction, that is dipping your communion wafer into the chalice.

Surprisingly, intinction may spread more germs than drinking from the chalice. Our fingers touch many surfaces, which gives them opportunity to come in contact with many more germs than our mouths. Ask any of the chalice bearers how many people accidentally touch tips of their fingers in the wine when they dip the wafer. If you are uncomfortable drinking from the chalice, please simply cross your arms over your chest after you receive the bread.

PARISH LIFE

Digital Giving Cards

If you give to Saint Mark's digitally, either through prearranged check, through the website or through text-to-give and would like to put something in the offering plate when it is passed, there are cards on the table in the back of the church that say "I give to Saint Mark's digitally". You can pick one up and put it in the plate as it passes by. The cards also have a QR code for digital giving and the text to give instructions if you want to give that way on Sunday morning.

Coffee Hour Help

We are looking for help with coffee hour on the third Sundays of the month. This involves making coffee on the easy-to-use machine, having some juice or other beverage and some treats. Please contact Cindy Anderson at cindy.anderson@snet.net for more information.

Photographers Wanted

we are looking for a few people to take pictures during coffee hour in November and December. If you are in-

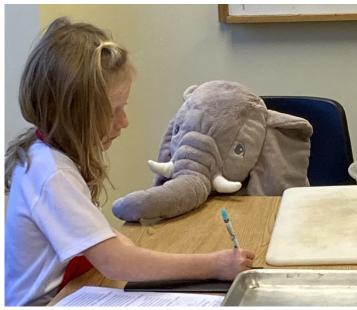


Members of Youth Group work together to solve the Escape Room puzzle at a recent outing at Escape It in Grandview.





A day for blessing our furry family members in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi and all God's animal kingdom..



Addy and Ella wonder about what Jesus wanted us to think about when we imagine the Kingdom of God.



Jill, Brenda, and Leslie having fun planning for the Fall Festival.

FACILITIES & CAMPUS

Facilities Subcommittee Identifies, Prioritizes Areas of Need

By Leslie Winters Saint Mark's Junior Warden

Most parishioners come to church on Sunday and then go home without ever thinking about what is involved in keeping the Saint Mark's campus comfortable and in good repair. Just like taking care of your own home, taking care of our church property is rather involved and is expensive. Our campus is over fifty years old, and as the property ages, the need for repairs increases. We thought it might be interesting to share some facilities information with you.

Saint Mark's has not employed a dedicated staff mem-

ber responsible for overseeing the campus. As the rector has multiple responsibilities and the wardens are volunteers who change, there was very little continuity to facilities maintenance. Last year, the Vestry es-

tablished a Facilities Subcommittee to assist with identifying and prioritizing needed repairs as well as helping to find contractors to perform the work. It was also hoped that this would establish continuity to repairs and maintenance.

One of the first things the group did was an extensive walk around the campus. Members of the committee identified about 90 items needing attention, some more urgently than others.

The campus entails about nine different roofs as you move from the Sanctuary to the office building. All of them are quite old and have had extensive repairs over the years. Last year, the roof and skylight over the altar was leaking and damaged both the altar and the floor, so the repair of this was the group's highest priority. One contractor wanted to do extensive repairs to the entire roof; the other wanted to address the flashing around the skylight. We opted to try the skylight flashing first at a cost of about \$3500, and it seems to have resolved the problem.

We wanted to get some interior painting done last year. The parish hall, the bathrooms and some of the hall-ways all needed to be painted, especially those areas where the daycare children were housed. The estimate to paint these areas was over \$50,000 so the project was put off. This still needs to be done.

This year we began addressing the other leak into the Nave along the north side of the building. It was determined to most likely to be a drainage issue. Our gutters

and downspouts were undersized allowing water to create ice dams and back up under the tile roof and down into the Nave. Repairing this cost \$5545. We hope this will resolve the problem. We shall see what happens this winter.

We have also dealt with a number of repairs this year. Our kitchen stove broke, resulting in a \$1000 in repairs (however, this was cheaper than \$20,000 for a new stove). We had a pipe in the ceiling leak in the education wing, resulting in an \$800 repair. Next, the door to the education wing broke resulting in a \$2400 repair. This spring the gutters overflowed resulting in a flood in the office basement and a \$2250 clean up. All of these un-

planned repairs along with our gutter issue ate up a good portion of what we budgeted for improvements. We were able to complete the paint-

ing of the higher exterior trim around the church. We had a lot of areas where the wood was bare, and we wanted to prevent further damage that would be more expensive to repair. This cost \$12,600.

One of our top priorities this year was to

begin to address the problems with the bell tower. Water is leaking into the tower causing damage both inside the bell tower and within the parish hall. Pastor Vicki went to work on this project. It was difficult to even find anyone who could handle this type of project as it is very specialized. We finally got a company to provide us a quote. They indicated they did not think we had done any maintenance on the bell tower in 50 years. They indicated we did not need to address the situation this year, but that if we didn't do repairs in the next few years, the damage might be beyond repair and the tower might collapse. Because the parish hall was built around the bell tower, the only way to access the area for repairs is to scaffold the area. To complete the repairs will be over \$250,000.

So, you can see it takes a lot to maintain our campus. In 2021 we spent \$94,013 on facilities and were unable to complete anything beyond immediately needed repairs. So, this year the Vestry raised the facilities budget to \$119,000 hoping we could complete some of the deferred maintenance. This represents about 20% of the Saint Mark's annual budget. Even with this budget, we have a lot of deferred maintenance that we have been unable to complete.



"The first thing the group did was take an extensive walk

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OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

NNEMAP

Anyone who has been to the grocery lately knows how much food prices have increased lately. This is really impacting the less fortunate in our community. Last month NEAMAP had 2756 visits, an increase of 48% over last year. These visits served 9868 family members, an increase of 53% over last year. Year to date they have had 20,511 visits, an increase of 55%. While providing food for the needy, is why they are in existence; the increased need is very expensive for NEAMAP. At the same time the need for food is increasing, donations of food from businesses are down. This means the pantry must buy more food which is expensive. Some weeks the pantry is without much meat or other proteins such as peanut butter. Consider helping by either a monetary donation to NNEMAP or by purchasing a jar of peanut butter or a can of tuna of tuna or chicken. The NNEMAP donation baskets are by the front doors of the church.

Harmony for Hunger Concert

Another way to help support NNEMAP is by purchasing a ticket to the Harmony for Hunger Concert and Silent Auction. The concert is on November 18 at Trinity United Methodist at the corner of Cambridge and Fifth Aves. Tickets are \$25 and can be obtained from Bill Karl on Sundays or by contacting him at mrbill.karl@gmail.com. The concert will feature local artists along with the OSU men's and women's glee clubs. If you have something you would like to donate to the silent auction, please let Barb Keyes know at bkeyes25@gmail.com.

Giving Tree

Just after Thanksgiving we will begin the collection for the NNEMAP Christmas Store. Children from infants to age 16 whose parents are registered at the NNEMAP Food Pantry will again be the recipients of Christmas gifts from Saint Mark's parishioners as well as the other member churches of NNEMAP. The Giving Tree, will be decorated on Saturday, November 26 with gift suggestions requested by the children printed on the back of the ornaments. Unwrapped gifts (with ornaments attached) can be placed under the tree beginning Sunday, December 4 through Sunday, December 18. We always receive lots of gifts for babies and small children but have a shortage of gifts for middle and high school students, so please consider choosing items for teenagers. Two gifts (one large and one stocking stuffer) will be selected by the parents in the Toy Room at the Linden Life Fellowship which is located just down the street from NNEMAP. The Toy Room will be open from Monday,

December 20 to Thursday, December 23. Last year over 800 children received gifts.

November Volunteer Activities

- On Wednesday, Nov 9 we will pack diapers and spices in the parish hall at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome. It only takes about an hour and is a great way to catch up with your fellow parishioners. For more information, contact Barb Keyes at bkeyes25@gmail.com or Leslie Winters at mslesliewinters@gmail.com.
- On Thursday, November, Saint Marks will take lunch to the participants of CATCH Court. We urgently need volunteers who might be willing to attend Court with the lunch. It is a great way to get to know more about the program. If you are able to help with the lunch prep, attend Court, or would just like more information on the program, please contact Pat lams at pati51@aol.com.
- Appalachian Children's Project (formerly the layette program) The school book bags were distributed and the recipients were thrilled. They really appreciated the quality of the bags and that the contents were all brand new items with which they could start the year. Some of the recipients actually teared up at the gift. Most of the toddler graduation bags have also been distributed and we will be providing them with a few more. Thank you again to everyone who filled a bag. You have made these children very happy.
- On October 19 a team delivered 30 layette bags to Help Me Grow along with books purchased for the Help Me Grow program (with funds raised by the Marksmen at their root beer and brats cookout). They will distribute the bags over the winter. We also met with our contacts to discuss how the program was going. They indicated the mothers really appreciated all the handmade items. It makes them feel special!

Save the Date- the Cookie Walk will be on December 18 after the 10:30 service.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who made chili for Street Church. We served it on October 30 and it was as popular as ever. There is nothing like a nice warm lunch on a fall day. This would not have been possible without your donations. We really appreciate the parish coming together to support this Outreach project to feed the homeless and others with food insecurity.

OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

St Mark's Launches Fall Festival

A gift of organic turkeys from our new neighbor, Littleton's Market, and a cancellation by the November First Sunday speaker catalyzed the Saint Mark's team to get creative. The result is our first Fall Festival, taking place on celebration of All Saints Day, November 6, with lots of goodies and activities after both the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

For starters, three 15-pound organic turkeys, donated by Littleton's Market with a retail value each of \$75, will be awarded to the lucky winners from our Turkey Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20 and will be sold Sundays starting October 16 after each service and on November 6 up to the drawing at noon. If you can't make it to church to buy a ticket, please call or stop by the office and we'll help you.

(NOTE: Littleton's will be taking fresh turkey orders until November 10, so you'll still have time to get one of these beauties if your raffle ticket is not a winner.)

Festivities will also include a bake sale of yummy pies, breads, and cakes featuring fall flavors and donated by members of the Saint Mark's Outreach Committee. If you love apples, pecans, ginger, walnuts or pumpkin we'll have a treat for you! You can also buy attractive decorative dried gourds to enhance your fall and Thanksgiving decor. And for the entire family we'll provide games and activities including a turkey bean bag toss, scarecrow bowling, cookie decorating and candy counting (winners take their jar home).

We look forward to this time of festivity and fellowship and hope you can join in the fun. Proceeds from the event will support the Saint Mark's Outreach Committee's year-end projects and help us continue to meet community needs. Join in the fun for a good cause and celebrate fall with us!

Hurricane Help

The best way to help those affected by Hurricane lan is to make a contribution to a reputable organization committed to helping with long-term rebuilding. One of those is Episcopal Relief and Development. If you want to make a contribution or find out more, their page on Hurricane lan response is **www.episcopalrelief.org**.



Saint Mark's Migration Ministries

For its September meeting, several Migration Ministry committee members attended a gathering at Trinity Lutheran Seminary for a meeting entitled: Praying and Learning Together: An Interfaith Event on Immigration and Reform. Sponsored by the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA and the Columbus Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, there was a broad cross-section of attendees and individuals who spoke about their personal experiences as immigrants here in Columbus.

After our very successful Artisans' Exhibition last May, we are very pleased to announce that we have joined in partnership with Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) and the City of Upper Arlington to hold a New Americans Maker's Market next year on May 6, 2023. There will be immigrant artisans from many different venues demonstrating and selling their creations, along with cultural food and music. Save the date!

For more information on Saint Mark's Migration Ministries, contact Joyce Acton – 614-560-9219, **actongroup@gmail.com**, or Brenda Hammersley – 614-330-1436, **b.hammersley@yahoo.com**.



WIN ONE OF 3 DELICIOUS ORGANIC TURKEYS

DONATED TO SAINT MARK'S BY OUR NEW NEIGHBOR

LITTLETON'S MARKET

(Each 15 pound turkey has a retail value of \$75)

Raffle Tickets Are \$10 Each Or 3 For \$20
JOIN US FOR A YUMMY BAKE SALE,
GAMES AND COOKIE DECORATING
AFTER THE 8:30 AND 10:30 SERVICES

Proceeds from the event will support the Saint Mark's Outreach Committee's year-end projects and help us continue to meet community needs.

FROM THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Convention

The Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio is Saturday November 9. The Preconvention meeting is November 2.

Diocesan Convention elects lay and clergy representatives to a variety of Diocesan committees, councils and boards. It also discusses the Diocesan budget and plans for the future of the Diocese.

Every congregation elects lay delegates and all the clergy are members of Convention too. Saint Mark's 2022 lay representatives are Mark Drew, Leslie Winters, Betsy Gillespie, and Cheryl Boop. You can find out more about Diocesan Convention at www.dsoconvention.org

Search For the Next Bishop

The Bishop Nominating Committee met for the first time at a retreat at the Procter Center on October 7 and 8, where the were commissioned and charged with beginning the process of choosing a new bishop for our diocese.

We have many steps to take in the process, and our first announcement is to ask members of the diocese to register for one or more of a series of focus groups, listed below, that will take place in October and November. During these focus groups, you will have a chance to share with us your concerns and hopes for the new bishop.

Ten focus groups will be held in person and six will be held virtually, via Zoom. Some of the Zoom sessions will focus on the hopes and concerns of specific groups within our diocese, but there are two general "Zoom for anyone" sessions. Any member of the diocese may choose to attend any session.

These focus groups are important to our search process. We need to hear from you so that we can better discern what qualities are needed in our next bishop.

In-Person Focus Groups

Columbus area in-person Focus Group will be held

 Thursday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Dublin

The following two in-person Focus Groups will be conducted in Spanish:

- Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Forest Park (en español)
- Sunday, November 13 at 12:00 p.m. at La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador (en español)

Zoom Focus Groups

Registration for Zoom focus groups is not required, but is encouraged.

- Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE)
- Tuesday, November I at 12:00 p.m. Becoming Beloved Community
- Sunday, November 6 at 4:00 p.m. Youth
- Friday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. En español
- Tuesday, November 15 at 12:00 p.m. Zoom for anyone
- Wednesday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. Zoom for anyone

Other locations for in-person focus groups and registration information can be found at www.southernohiobishop.org/2022/10/from-the-bishop-nominating-committee-focus-groups-beginnext-week

The Bishop Nominating Committee

Ms. Cathy Bagot

Mr. Mark Conrad

Ms. Catherine Duffy

The Rev. Jason Emerson

The Rev. George Glazier
The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin (Chair)

Mr. Thomas Jones

Ms. Miriam McKenney

Mr. Wendell Mulford

The Rev. Joshua Nelson

Mr. Michael Newman

The Rev. Benjamin Speare-Hardy

Ms. Hannah Teetor

The Very Rev. Owen Thompson

Mr. Gaylord Trim

Chaplain: The Rev. Sallie Schisler



Please join us in praying for the search for the Tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the witness of your whole church in his name. We thank you for your Holy Spirit, empowering us for ministry. So guide the hearts and minds of all those who shall choose a bishop in this diocese and those who will respond to the call, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people. May our discernment transform our spirits and draw us closer to you, Almighty God.

Amen.

SAINT MARK'S IN THE COMMUNITY

Saint Mark's Hosts UA Commission on Aging Village Social Hour

There will be a social hour for those interested in finding out about a new program of the UA Commission on Aging called UA Village from 4 to 6 pm on Wednesday, November 2 in the parish hall. The event is open to all and free to attend. Registration is required. More information is available at: www.upperarlington.helpfulvillage.com

The Upper Arlington Commission on Aging is an important organization that serves as a sounding board and an important resource in the UA community.

Did you know that Upper Arlington Commission on Aging is starting a Village program?

The Village model is an innovative and inclusive approach to aging in place. Villages support older adults to age in a place of their choosing and connects them to supports and tools they need to create successful aging of their own design. In addition to events and activities that unite members, Villages connect older adults to a range of services from home maintenance and in-home care to personal services and transportation. Village Program

The first Village was established in 2002 in Boston and there are now more than 200 actively operating in the US - including six right here in Central Ohio! Find out more about the central Ohio villages by clicking here

What a village offers: Villages are grassroots, member-driven community organizations that provide engagement and connection for adults 50+ aging in their community.

How can you get involved? Villages are rooted in reciprocity. There are many ways that older adult village members and other community members can volunteer and support this program. www.uacoa.com/VillageProgram.

Syntero Virtual Parent Workshop

Setting Boundaries with Adolescents in the Age of Social Media 6:30 - 7:30 pm, November 29

In this free workshop, caregivers will learn the importance of setting in-person and online boundaries with their adolescents, as well as strategies to effectively communicate and maintain those boundaries.

No registration is required.

Attendance link is available at www.syntero.org.

No registration is required. To participate or view details for the entire workshop series, visit www.syntero.org/parent-guardian-workshops.

Attention All Crafters and Collectors

The bi-annual St. Francis of Assisi Crafts & Collectibles Fair will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2022 in the Parish Hall after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses (from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.). This will also be hospitality Sunday --- coffee/juice & donuts for all.

If you are interested in selling your hand-made or collectible items at the Fair, you must register with us first. You may start setting up beginning at 8:00 a.m., especially if you plan on attending the 9 a.m. Mass. We have a limited number of tables – round and rectangle – available for your use but you may bring your own if you wish. There is no fee for a table or space; however, all vendors are asked to donate 10% of their total sales to St. Francis of Assisi Church, which will be sent to the St. Francis Mission Center in McArthur, Ohio to help people in need.

Space is limited and tables will be allotted on a first-come/first-registered basis.

To request table or space, contact Ms. Marti J. Damm at 614.804.7217

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Dear Friends of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church,

Very special thank you for your generous donations of \$579.41 for the Guatemala La Labor School and the \$579.41 for the Guatemala Healthcare Project.

We have you in our prayers so that God may bless your congregation with much holiness and love.

Sr. Janet Maríe Wilhelm, ASC Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Editorial note: This contribution was made from monies previously directed toward the Friends of Guatemala fund for sponsorship of Saint Mark's past support of the Sangre de Cristo Health Care Project and School in La Labor, Guatemala.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

We offer condolences to the families of:

Longtime Saint Mark's parishioner, **Marlene Marchak** passed away peacefully on October 2.

A public memorial service and celebration of her life will be held in Philadelphia at West Laurel Hill Cemetery Chapel, 225 Belmont Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004, at 11 AM on Saturday, November 26, 2022. In Lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Cancer Society or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at **www.pancan.org**.



Sharon Rea Switzer and **Thomas Rea**, siblings of Saint Mark's parishioner, Linda Jones. Ms. Switzer and Mr. Rea passed into the nearer presence of Christ on September 22 and 23.

Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love that they may face each new day with hope and the certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given. May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love.

Amen.



If you would like to share an announcement of a birth or marriage of someone related to the parish, a job change, retirement, achievement, student news, etc, please send information to Robbie Hurley at hurley.roberta@yahoo.com. or Communications@saintmarkcolumbus.org or by calling the parish office at 614-486-9452.

We celebrate the following relocation:

Jay and Barbara Wilcox have moved permanently to Florida, but remain Saint Mark's parishioners attending weekly worship services via livestream. Their new address is:

2840 Cypress Trace Circle Apartment 1927 Naples, FL 34119

BIRTHDAYS

Thankful For You!



Becky Roeder	11/2
Stella Farr	11/3
Mara Smith	11/4
Debbie Rogers	11/5
Irina Reed	11/5
Karen Gebhart	11/8
Sam Slee	11/9
Diane Hartney	11/10
Donna Taylor	11/10
Mikey Bester	11/12
Courtney Neckers	11/12
Steve Brindza	11/16
Hannah Myers	11/16
Joyce Acton	11/17
Ila Jean Stamper	11/18
Jim Acton	11/20
Bill Moll	11/24
Phil Glandon, Sr.	11/25
Tom Hurley	11/25
John Marchak	11/25
Dee Vaigl	11/25
Angela Anderson	11/28
Jim Vaigl, Jr.	11/29
Allison Wolfe	11/29
Gwendolyn Warren	11/29

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may

be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

November 2022 Parish Calendar

www. Saint Marks Columbus. or g/Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 30 Columbus Region Pulpit Swap 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Adult Formation 9:30 am Children's Formation 10:30 am Children's Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Noon Pumpkin Carving 1 pm Street Church 8 pm Sunday Night AA	31 10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group	Nov 1 All Saints' Day 9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 7:30 pm Vestry Mtg	2 4 pm UA Village Social Hour 4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal	3 1 pm Knitting and Stitching Group 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA	4 Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA	5 pm Supper Group
6 All Saints' Sunday 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 am Fall Festival 9 am Memorial Garden Commemoration 9:30 am Intergenerational First Sunday Outreach Project 10 am Memorial Garden Ceremony 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Canterbury Choir Noon Youth Group Mtg Noon Outreach Annual Baby Shower 4 pm Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday 8 pm Sunday Night AA	7 10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group	9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 5 pm Grief Support Group 6:15 Contemplative Prayer 7pm Sacred Conversations	9 10:30 am Spices & Diapers 4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Parish Family Dinner	10 11 am CATCH Court 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA	11 Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA	5:30 pm Supper Group
Veterans Day 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Adult Formation 9:30 am Children's Formation 10:30 am Children's Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Noon Stephen Ministers Mtg 8 pm Sunday Night AA	14 10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 6:30 pm Evening Knitting Group	9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 7 pm Outreach Mtg	4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 6 pm Girl Scout Cadette Troup 6017 Mtg	17 1 pm Knitting & Stitching Group 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA	18 Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA	9 am - 3 pm Diocesan Annual Convention (@ Christ Church Cathedral 12:30 pm Lancaster Chorale Rehearsal
8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Adult Formation 9:30 am Children's Formation 10:30 am Children's Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 3 pm Lancaster Chorale Rehearsal 8 pm Sunday Night AA	21 Epistle Deadline 10:30 am Staff Mtg 4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 7 pm Sisters in Faith 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 7 pm Migration Ministry Mtg	7:30 pm Marksmen Mtg	24 Thanksgiving 6:15 pm AA 8 pm AA Office Closed	25 Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA	26
27 First Sunday of Advent 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Noon Advent Wreath Workshop 8 pm Sunday Night AA	28 10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 7:30 pm Mon Night Book Group	9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 6:15 pm Contemplative Prayer	30 4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal	Dec 1 1 pm Knitting and Stitching Group 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA	2 Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA	8:30 am Advent Quiet Morning 5 pm Supper Group



www.SaintMarksColumbus.org (614) 486-9452

COMING IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 6

All Saints' Sunday

9 a.m.-Ip.m Fall Festival

9 a.m. Memorial Garden Service10 a.m. Memorial Garden Service

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

Saturday, November 19

9 a.m. Diocesan Convention

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday in Advent

Noon Advent Wreath Workshop





Engage with the Saint Mark's community on Facebook and Instagram for inspiration, information, and weekly e-news parish announcements.