

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LIVING IN FAITH. GROWING IN LOVE.

the EPISTLE

A Monthly Newsletter of Saint Mark's, Columbus

December 2022 • Issue 284

Reflections in Advent

The Rev. Vicki Zust

It is hard to believe that it is December already.

You will find in the rest of the Epistle lots of information about things that are coming up to help get ready for the holiday. Because, indeed, Christmas is coming.

But for most of December we will be in the season of Advent. That is a time that the church, in a manner of speaking, takes a deep breath. The season of Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ. Not just for the celebration of his first coming. The season of Advent is first and foremost a season of preparation for the second coming of Christ.

It is a time when we stop. A time to look inward and consider what it is that we need to do to be prepared to stand in the presence of God. To ask ourselves the question – how can I, in my life, prepare the way for the Lord to come?

Try each week to find a few minutes to stop and reflect and consider what in your life is ready for the presence of God and what might need to be changed.

In the midst of the increasing demands and the busy schedules that always come with the Christmas holidays, try each week to find a few minutes to stop and reflect and consider what in your life is ready for the presence of God and what might need to be changed. Remember that the coming of Immanuel, God with us, means that you actually are in the presence of God right now.



Christmas at Saint Mark's

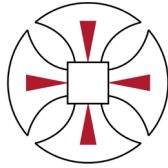
Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24

- 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant
A service particularly appropriate for families with young children. Music by The Canterbury Choir.
- 10:30 p.m. Musical Prelude and Carol Sing
Carols for Choir and Congregation
Music by Saint Mark's Choir
- 11 p.m. Holy Eucharist for the Eve of the Nativity
Music by Saint Mark's Choir. Incense will be used.

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Baptism

All services will occur both in person and livestreamed on Saint Mark's website and Facebook page.



SAINT MARK'S STAFF

The Rev. Vicki Zust, Rector

Rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Dr. Matthew Bester, Director of Music

DirectorOfMusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Michael Schreffler, Organist

Organist@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Gary L. Garber, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus

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SAINT MARK'S VESTRY

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Irina Reed – 330-990-6593

Roman Skoracki – 614-583-8801

Phil Glandon, Treasurer – 614-486-5806

Treasurer@SaintMarksColumbus.org

Barbara Hyre, Clerk – 614-488-1567

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: Communications@saintmarkscolumbus.org.



Saint Mark's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant will take place at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Children of all ages are welcome to participate! Younger children will be a part of the Nativity tableau in costume. Older children who feel comfortable reading in front of an audience will be given the opportunity to read narrative parts. Every effort will be made to honor requested roles.

More information, including signup link (we are looking for parent volunteers too!), copy of the pageant script and link to last years' pageant is available at www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/christmas-pageant.

For questions please contact:

The Children's Formation Team and Pageant Organizers

Joanne Drew: jdrew627@gmail.com

Laura Skoracki: lauragatsos@hotmail.com

Irina Reed: irina.reed@gmail.com

Betsy Gillespie: betsylgillespie@gmail.com

Pageant Schedule

November 20 to December 18

Online Signups

www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/christmas-pageant

Sunday, December 18

Full rehearsal with Canterbury Choir
immediately following the 10:30 service.

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Rehearsal 3:45 p.m. / Pageant 5 p.m.

No need to wear your costume. Children will have a chance to have a break/snack and change into their costumes after the rehearsal.

MUSIC

A Magical Time of Year**Dr. Matthew Bester****Saint Mark's Director of Music**

The months of November and December are always my favorite months of the year. I love the arrival of cooler fall weather and clear blue skies, and I look forward to the arrival of some snow. (I am from Minnesota, after all.) Fall sports are some of my favorite to watch, especially football on the weekends and hockey throughout the week (did I mention that I'm from Minnesota?), even if the Blue Jackets have not given us a whole lot to cheer about so far this year. Moreover, Thanksgiving and Christmas are two of my favorite holidays. I love the food, the gatherings with family and friends, the giving of presents, and, of course, the sublime beauty of Christmas music. It is a magical time of year.

November and December also are two of my favorite months in the church calendar. In November we've already enjoyed a beautiful service of Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday and a stirring service of Choral Eucharist for the Feast of Christ the King. The arrival of December will bring some of my most favorite services and events of the year, including our Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 4; caroling by the Canterbury Choir at Tremont Center on Tuesday, December 13; and our jubilant Christmas Eve services at 5 and 11 p.m. Read on for more information about each of these exciting events.

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. Music will include choral works by Malcolm Archer, Gustav Holst, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Josef Rheinberger, Mark Sirett, Natalie Sleeth, Conrad Susa, and Healey Willan. Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Special Music Fund at Saint Mark's. An elegant reception will follow. Please join us, and be sure to invite some friends!

Canterbury Choir Caroling at Tremont Center

On Tuesday, December 13, the Canterbury Choir will perform Christmas carols as part of the return of the **Christmas by the Clock** celebration at Tremont Center (across from the church). Come out and support our young choristers as they represent Saint Mark's for this fun community event, which will feature free sleigh rides and treats from the Goodie Shop, live reindeer, and an appearance by Santa Claus.



A FESTIVAL
OF ADVENT
LESSONS AND
CAROLS

4 P.M.
DECEMBER 4, 2022
WITH RECEPTION FOLLOWING

Livestreamed at www.SaintMarksColumbus.org

 **SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
2151 Dorset Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221 | 614-486-9452

Christmas Eve at Saint Mark's

There are two evening services on Christmas Eve at Saint Mark's. The 5 p.m. service includes music by the Canterbury Choir and features our beloved Christmas pageant with youth from the church school. The 11 p.m. service features music by the Saint Mark's Choir and is preceded by a prelude of Carols for Choir and Congregation, beginning at 10:30 p.m.

Friendship Soup Benefits Canterbury Choir

Looking for a thoughtful gift this Christmas? Or do you need an easy meal for those cold winter nights? Then you are in luck! The Canterbury Choir has kicked off its annual soup sales! Soup

mixes will be available on Sundays at the church through the end of the year. Pint-size jars are still just \$7 and quart-sized jars are only \$10. Contact George Reed at: gwrpowell@outlook.com.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU OBSERVE ADVENT AND PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

Advent Quiet Morning - December 3

There will be an Advent Quiet Morning on Saturday December 3. There will be a few reflections throughout the morning with time in between. There will be spaces for quiet prayer and for quiet conversation. We will provide some basic art supplies, but bring your journal, your art, a book you are reading or your knitting if you like.

We will begin with Morning Prayer at 9 am. The morning will end at 11:45 with Noonday Prayer.

We will gather in the Canterbury Center.

Flower Donations - December 4 thru 18

There are several way you can donate to the Christmas greens and floral arrangements in honor or in memory of your loved ones.

1. Donations and inscriptions can be made online.
2. Envelopes will be available at the back of the sanctuary beginning December 4. These can be placed in the offering plate during the offertory.
3. Come to the table near coffee hour tables in the Parish Hall at Coffee Hour and fill out the envelope with your amount and message.

If you have questions please contact Diane Hartney.

The Giving Tree - December 4 thru 18

The collection has begun 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 is decorated with ornaments with gift suggestions printed on the back. Unwrapped gifts (**with ornaments attached please**) can be placed under the tree through Sunday, December 18.

Parents will be able to select two gifts (one large and one stocking stuffer) from the Toy Room located at Linden Life Fellowship, which is just down the street from NNEMAP. The Toy Room will be open beginning Monday, December 20 and will run until Thursday, December 23. Last year over 800 children received gifts from the Toy Room store.

Cookie Walk - December 18

The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday December 18. As the congregants of the 8 a.m. service were very supportive of the fall festival, we will set up a smaller scale version of cookie walk after the 8 a.m. service.

For those who might not have been to the Cookie Walk before, this is one of the Outreach Ministry's pri-

mary fundraisers. We ask congregants to bake some of their favorite cookies to donate to the Cookie Walk. The cookies should be brought to the kitchen the morning of the Cookie Walk or the day before. Outreach members will display the cookies on platters which are set up on tables in the parish hall. Congregants can walk through the line selecting a wide variety of cookies to purchase. The cookies are sold by weight.

This is a great way to get your holiday baking started. The cookies make great gifts, so keep that in mind and stock up!

Advent Materials Available

There are printed Advent materials available in the parish hall in the arch-shaped book rack near the kitchen. In addition, there are several handpicked online resources available on Saint Mark's website Advent page at www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/advent-at-saint-marks.

Jesse Tree-A Story-A-Day Advent "Calendar"

A Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree.

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree.

Each ornament on the tree has a symbol that represents a bible story beginning with Genesis. Each day a story is read and corresponding symbol place on the tree. As the tree accumulates ornaments, you see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.

Check out the Children's Formation Jesse Tree located in the Parish Hall and consider adopting a similar tradition at home. There are lots of ways to create a Jesse Tree of your own that can be quite simple with free or inexpensive online downloads.



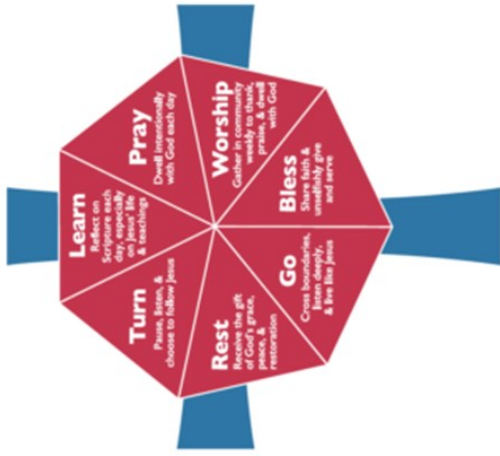
Journeying the Way of Love Advent Curriculum and Advent Calendar

For the season of Advent, *Journeying the Way of Love* offers four sessions to be explored as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Read and reflect on the passages and “try on” the spiritual practices of the Way of Love. Use the Advent Calendar for daily suggestions to engaging in the seven practices that encompass the Way of Love: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest.

The full curriculum and calendar are available in pdf format to download at www.EpiscopalChurch.org/journeying-way-

ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Worship Advent 1 Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?	28 Go Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.	29 Learn Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.	30 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent I, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.	1 Bless We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.	2 Turn Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?	3 Rest Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.
4 Worship Advent 2 Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?	5 Go Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.	6 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.	7 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.	8 Bless Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.	9 Turn Where did you struggle this week? Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.	10 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 Worship Advent 3 Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.	12 Go Take a new or different route to work, or school, or out to run errands. See how using a different route requires you to see the world differently — to pay a different kind of attention. What do you notice along the way that makes you stop and take a second look? Does anything on this new route inspire your faith journey or remind you of lessons learned?	13 Learn Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.	14 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.	15 Bless Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.	16 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal. Turn your attention toward how you will be resting tomorrow, and put things in place so you can make the most of your sabbath time.	17 Rest Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.
18 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.	19 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.	20 Learn Read Habakkuk 2:1-4. Does this reading remind you of Thomas the disciple? Why do you think the folks who organized the lectionary picked this reading from the Old Testament for this friend of Jesus?	21 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.	22 Bless Make sure to pick up an extra present or two — a nice candy sampler or a warm pair of slippers or pajama pants, just in case you have extra friends or guests drop by. Ask God to bless those who travel and those who may be alone in the coming days. Take some bottled water and sports drinks over to your local community cold weather shelter. They will be extra glad to have that during the winter months.	23 Turn If you are gathering with friends and family today, consider taking time during the meal to turn to the folks on your right, and then on your left, to thank them for their love in your life. See how this might spread some joy and comfort around the table — or maybe even ease some potentially prickly guests.	24 Rest Christmas Eve The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.

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.

On December 11 and 18 Pastor Vicki will explore the development of the liturgical calendar: How we got the cycle of seasons and feasts that the church observes.

There will be no Adult formation on December 25 or January 1.

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. Youth Group programming typically ends at 1:30 p.m.

On Sunday December 4, youth group will meet following the 10:30 service for lunch and games.

All Canterbury Choir members are all invited to join the youth group for lunch and games and to stay for a movie and snack until your call time for Lessons and Carols.

Brown Bag Sermon - December 4

At the 10:30 am service, Pastor Vicki will give a Brown Bag sermon.

The way this works is that all children and youth are invited to bring something to put in a brown bag at the front of the church.

The challenge for Pastor Vicki will be to construct her sermon improv-style by including every item in the bag. There are a few rules:

1. Nothing alive.
2. Nothing sticky, sloppy, gooey, or messy (put your slime in a jar before putting it in the bag)
3. Nothing that will injure Pastor Vicki as she picks it up (so nothing sharp or pointy)

Look around, be creative and bring something for the bag. The items put in the bag will be returned after the sermon.



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

VESTRY**Give to Saint Mark's: Consider Serving on Vestry**

The vestry is the governing body of the parish and consists of 15 members of the parish who are elected by the congregation. It is the vestry's responsibility to be the final decision-making body that hires the rector, approves the parish budget, makes parish policy decisions, and spends the parish's money on mission, ministry, and maintenance.

The vestry consists of a senior warden, a junior warden, and a youth warden (high school age), each of whom are elected by the parish for a 1-year term. The other 12 members of the vestry are elected for 3-year terms, normally with four members elected each year. At its first meeting in each calendar year, the vestry appoints a treasurer and a clerk. The treasurer and clerk are not voting members of the vestry by virtue of being appointed to office.

While not specified in the bylaws, historically the expectation was that when a parishioner was elected to the vestry, they also took responsibility for a specific committee, such as Outreach, Formation, Stewardship, or Hospitality. However, we are moving away from that model and instead, the vestry divides ongoing committee work, ad hoc projects, and one-time events, with each vestry member taking on those things that are interesting to them and that fit into their schedules.

The wardens each have particular areas of focus in addition to the regular vestry responsibilities.

The senior warden works with the rector and vestry members to oversee the smooth administration of Saint Mark's. The junior warden works with the rector and vestry members to oversee the physical facilities.

The youth warden works with the rector to bring the viewpoint of the youth the leadership of Saint Mark's. Two youth can be elected to share the position.

The senior and junior wardens each serve as delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Two additional delegates and four alternate delegates will be elected at the Saint Mark's Annual Meeting in February. These elected and *ex-officio* delegates will vote in the 2023 election for the next Bishop of Southern Ohio.

After many years of dedicated service as vestry clerk, Barb Hyre is stepping down to explore other areas of ministry. We are looking for someone to consider filling that role, which involves attending vestry meetings and taking minutes.

In the coming weeks, the nominating committee will reach out to ask people to consider serving on vestry. Please pray about whether you would like to volunteer to run for a vestry or warden position, serve as a Convention Delegate, or as clerk. Consider attending an upcoming vestry meeting – especially if you have never been to one before. Vestry meetings are open to parishioners and are held at 7:30 p.m. on the First Tuesday of the month in the Canterbury Center.

You can find more information such as Vestry Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, church bylaws at www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/publications. Information about vestry is available at www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/vestry. Please also reach out to

Pastor Vicki: rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org
 Mark Drew: seniorwarden@saintmarkscolumbus.org
 Leslie Winters: juniwarden@saintmarkscolumbus.org

VESTRY

Class of 2023 Wardens and Vestry Members Reflect on Their Service

Seven members of Saint Mark's leadership will leave their posts early next year, having helped guide the parish through challenges ranging from a pandemic to finding a new rector.

Those stepping down are: Senior Warden Mark Drew, Junior Warden Leslie Winters, Youth Warden Lukas Skoracki and Vestry members Anice Ellis, Judith Grant, Bill Mayr, and Irina Reed. Replacements will be elected at the annual parish meeting Feb. 12.

Mark Drew, Senior Warden



Q: What did you enjoy about your service?

Two things: First, I've developed some deep and lasting friendships with quite a few members, especially those who have served alongside me on Vestry in addition to many others I've worked with. Being

part of lay leadership puts you in a position to form strong relationships with others who care deeply about the health of the ministry of Saint Mark's.

Second, serving as both junior and senior warden has helped me grow spiritually in a way I had not expected. Through the almost-daily perspective of seeing our parish as a whole ministry "machine" (staff, lay-leadership, members), I gained a newfound faith in the purpose and importance of the message that Saint Mark's brings to all. We of course do obvious good work in the form of formal Sunday worship, but our care and respect for those who may never cross our doors has helped me in faith to a degree I had not imagined.

Lukas Skoracki, Youth Warden



Q: What would you say to someone who might be considering the Youth Warden post?

A: Make sure to be assertive in Vestry meetings. I know it can be nerve-racking at first, sitting among the people who are behind everything the church stands for and does, but make sure to speak up and make your-self heard! Your views are

valued just as much as you value theirs, and I know you'll do a great job.

Leslie Winters, Junior Warden



Q: As junior warden you play a big role in overseeing the physical plant of Saint Mark's. What do you take away from that experience?

A: I learned a lot about the operation and maintenance of the campus, as well as where we were falling short. We had a lot of deferred maintenance when I started. I don't think

the amount of deferred maintenance is appreciated by most of the parish. For example, our bell tower has had no maintenance since it was built, and several of our AC units are well beyond their life expectancy. I also became intimately familiar with the parish budget and in particular the facilities budget. I am proud I was able to start a Facilities Committee of the Vestry to expand the number of people focusing on the facilities. I am also very proud that we will have a part-time facilities manager on board before I leave. The position of Junior Warden gives you an opportunity to serve in the leadership of the parish, which can be rewarding. You have the opportunity to bring about change, and to make Saint Mark's a better place.

Judith Grant



Q: How did you enjoy your term on vestry?

A: I loved the community, and getting to see the inside of how the church works. I also made quite a few new friends and felt very much more a part of the parish of Saint Mark's.



VESTRY

Anice Ellis



Q: You've given freely of your time and talent to serve on the Vestry. Why?

A: This was the third time I have served on the Vestry at Saint Mark's and I have always enjoyed serving. I really enjoyed being a part of the search committee for Vicki. This group worked together well with no

controversy at all. I would tell anyone that to serve on the Vestry was a privilege and a pleasure to work with a very great group whose enthusiasm was very contagious. Try it you might like it and learn a great deal about Christian love and concern for others.

Bill Mayr



Q: What are some of the highlights of your term?

A: As a member of the Vestry, you can see, and support, all the good being done by parishioners, both within the parish and in the greater community. For example, the strong response by the parish to the challenges of the

COVID-19 pandemic led to creation of a sophisticated audio-visual online broadcast system that will serve Saint Mark's for years to come. The Vestry has embraced Pastor Vicki's efforts to develop new programs for the parish and to increase Saint Mark's visibility in the community. Saint Mark's is an oasis of welcoming Christian love; you can see this in all the many volunteers who make the parish go and the increasing numbers of community members drawn to Saint Mark's in person and online.

Thank
WE ARE BETTER BECAUSE OF YOU
you

Irina Reed

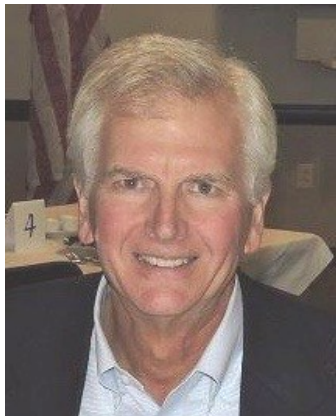


Q: What would you say to someone considering joining the Vestry?

A: It is a responsibility, but a very rewarding experience. It is a chance for you to express your concerns, ideas and hopes and be a part of an amazing and dedicated group of people.

A Word From the Treasurer—Good News is Always Worth Sharing!

As we near the end of the year, I am happy to share good news on the financial front. You may remember that we passed a budget for 2022 that projected a deficit of slightly more than \$75,000. We had the financial strength to sustain at least two years of deficits at that level and strongly felt that it was time to invest in our programs and ministries with an energized new Rector and people returning to worship in person at church.



With a \$33,000 gift from a generous member, I can conservatively project that we will exceed our budgeted revenue (excluding unrealized market losses in our Endowment Fund) and expect to be well under our budgeted expenses, resulting in a deficit significantly lower than expected. We still have strong financial reserves, and our membership is growing! After two years of declining pledges, our pledging increased by 4% last year, and this year should grow by an additional 7%, or \$30,000, in an uncertain economy.

The enthusiasm and excitement around Saint Mark's is palpable, and that can mean nothing but continued growth in members and financial support for our parish.

We have much to be grateful for during this Christmas season!

Blessings and Peace!
Phil Glandon, Treasurer

PARISH LIFE



Saint Mark's and Pastor Vicki were featured in the November/December 2022 edition of Tri-Village Magazine. The Magazine, published by CityScene Media Group, is a glossy community publication that serves the Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights, and Marble Cliff neighborhoods. Also featured in the article were Anice Ellis' one-of-a-kind Hamburger Cookies. Extra copies are available in the Parish Hall or online at www.cityscenecolumbus.com/topics/tri-village-november-december-2022.

Knitting

Do you knit? Do you want to learn how? 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 p.m. in the Canterbury Center. The December meeting is Monday December 12.

Daytime Knitting group meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm in the Canterbury Center. The December meetings are December 1 and 15.

You don't have to have any experience. We will have some needles, yarn, and simple patterns for beginners.

Directory Pictures

We are working on getting pictures of people for our parish directory.

Nnedi Obianagha and Stuart Brace will be available to grab a picture of your family unit as you want it in the directory on Sundays November 27, December 4, 11, and 18. Just stop by, put your name on the list and get a photo.

Parish Family Dinner

The December Parish Family Dinner is Wednesday December 14.

Come to the parish hall at 5:30 p.m. We will open with grace and then eat dinner. We will all help clean up beginning around 6:30 p.m.

You don't need to signup. 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.

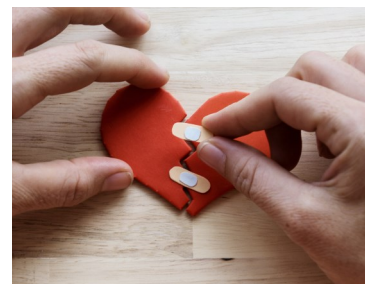
Come, have dinner, talk with other Saint Mark's folk, and maybe meet someone new.

Saint Mark's Grief Support Group

Loving another person is a rich experience, but when that person dies, you enter the universal and unavoidable world of grief. The holidays can make losses even harder to cope with and you may feel overwhelmed by expectations, traditions and sadness.

We know that grieving in an atmosphere of support can be helpful as you find your way to a new future where the memory of your loved one brings more joy than pain.

Join us at Saint Mark's Grief Support Group to explore holiday challenges and share tips and tools for surviving and thriving. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 13 at 5 pm in the Fireside Room (next to Pastor Vicki's office). Contact Brenda Hammersley at 614-330-1436 for more information.



PARISH LIFE



OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Fall Festival

The fall festival was an idea that started during the Labor Day Bake Sale, when members of the Outreach Ministry learned Littleton's market had donated three fresh turkeys to the church and they would be available to Outreach to raffle. That idea bloomed into an event to be held on All Saints Day, November 6. The raffle was a huge success with 37 people purchasing tickets. The lucky winners of the turkeys were drawn at the festival and went to Megan Bowman, Steve Brindza, and Diane Hawley-Wells. Congratulations! At the event we also had a successful bake sale of fall related desserts, cookie decorating and games for the kids (including Scarecrow Bowling, seen below) and a sale of fall gourds and a few Christmas crafts. One of the games was guess the number of candy corn in the jar, and it was won by Cheryl Boop who is proving herself as the one to beat when it comes to guessing the number of items in a jar. Emma Moll won the guess on the suckers in a jar. At the end of the day, about \$1,300 was raised for Outreach Ministries. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.



Street Church

The next street church event is on December 11. There is a short service lead by St. John Columbus (usually by our former associate rector, Christopher Richardson). We will then serve lunch to the participants. It is held at the corner of Broad and Central in an area of town where there is a lot of food insecurity.

We will take the remainder of the community chili that was made by all of you in October and frozen. Volunteers are still needed to assist with the assembly and serving of the meal. If you are interested in participating, let Roberta Morton know. She can be reached at notvmorton@gmail.com.

Diapers and Spices

The packing of the diapers and spices for NNEMAP will take place on December 14 in the parish hall at 10:30 a.m. Please join us for this fun event. There is lots of

chatting while we work. It is a great opportunity to visit with your friends or to get to know some new friends. It only takes about an hour. The diapers and spices that we pack are popular items at NNEMAP and fly off the shelves.

Move to Prosper

Several months ago, we told you that the Outreach Ministry had decided to support Move to Prosper, a new non-profit that is attempting to provide opportunities for children and financial stability for low-income families by moving them to neighborhoods where they have increased resources. They also provide them mentorship and coaching to help them succeed. Recently we received Move to Prosper's 2022 Impact Statement highlighting the group's pilot program. The average amount added to each household's annual income was \$17,000. Average incomes rose from \$29,000 to \$46,000. One hundred percent of the women graduating from the 3-year program feel ready to take on the full cost of their rent without the subsidy provided through the program. The success of the pilot program gave Move to Prosper the confidence to take on 16 new families. Their hope is that they will be able to welcome 100 new families into the program by 2025.

Saint Mark's Migration Ministries

*In the name of these refugees,
support all refugees through friendship,
interest, and gifts.*



For information, contact

Joyce Acton – 614-560-9219

actongroup@gmail.com

Brenda Hammersley – 614-330-1436

b.hammersley@yahoo.com

PASTORAL CARE

Stephen Ministries—Christ Caring. For People. Through People

The Stephen Ministry Program at Saint Mark's was initiated in 2009 by then Rector The Rev. Dr. Paul St. Germain after success he had with the program at his previous parish. Paul asked The Rev. Joan Maynard, then Saint Mark's Pastoral Deacon, to start a program at Saint Mark's. Joan was joined by Pat Barton and together they attended an immersive Stephen Ministries training course in Pittsburgh. Shortly after, in 2010, Joan and Pat trained the first group of four Stephen Ministers. Since then the program has steadily grown. Twenty-eight parishioners have completed training and nearly 50 parishioners have received care by a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members specially trained to offer confidential, one-on-one care to people who are hurting or experiencing a difficult life situation, such as grief, divorce, job loss or retirement, chronic or terminal illness, relocation or any felt traumatic experience.

The Stephen Ministry training program is a high-quality, Christ-centered program. Learners complete 50 hours of training, which is a mix of presentations, readings, group discussion, skill practice, and spiritual growth activities.

Potential care receivers first meet with a member of clergy or a Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. A guiding principle of Stephen Ministries is that Care Providers are not trained to provide counseling services; they are in no way a substitute for professional mental healthcare. At the same time, a Stephen Ministry relationship is not intended as a social relationship. But rather Stephen Ministers are trained to be present, to attentively and intentionally listen and to provide Christ-centered care to a hurting person.

What that actually looks like depends on the situation, the needs and concerns of the care receiver, the relational and caring skill of the Stephen Minister, and the extent to which both Care Receiver and Care Provider allow

Christ to be part of the relationship.

A Stephen Minister typically has only one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists.

Stephen Ministers are often thought of as "The After People." People to care and comfort after the acute crisis has passed: After the funeral when everyone has left and the casseroles and cards have stopped coming, for example; or after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."



Stephen Ministers are The After People. They are ready to come alongside you and provide comfort and Christ-centered support for as long after as needed.

Currently there are 11 active Stephen Ministers, including three Stephen Leaders. Leaders include Pat Barton, Dianne Silliman, and Michele Johnson. Active Stephen Ministers are Martha Belury, Craig Tuthill, Roberta Morton, Phil Glandon, Jodi Hess, Andi Waller, Joanne Drew, and Dan Morton.

If you would like more information about the national organization of Stephen Ministries, you can go to www.StephenMinistries.org. If you think you might be interested in being paired with a Stephen Minister or would like to refer someone you think might benefit from a Stephen ministry relationship, please reach out to Pastor Vicki or one of the Stephen Leaders. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

If you are interested in the next training session for Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders:

Pastor Vicki	rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org
Pat Barton	patricia-barton@columbus.rr.com
Dianne Silliman	dlsilliman@gmail.com
Michele Johnson	micheleljohnson@gmail.com

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

We celebrate the following births:

Ellery Marie Karl, daughter of Philip and Jenny Karl and granddaughter of Marilyn and Bill Karl, was born on October 10, 2022. The new family resides in Boston.

Henry Michael Wells, son of Bill and Margaret Wells and brother of Abby, was born November 20, 2022.

John “Jack” Edward Hurley was born 11/27/22, 3 weeks early but all is well. Parents are Andrea and Patrick Hurley and grandparents are Robbie and Tom Hurley.

Almighty God, heavenly Father you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS

Larry Copeland	12/1	Atley McIntyre	12/11
Mary Kirkey	12/1	Jeremiah Warren	12/12
Chance Parson	12/1	Greg Smith	12/13
Cora Silliman	12/2	Erika Haupt	12/13
Sheila Millard	12/4	Waymon McLeskey	12/17
Andy Neckers	12/4	Karen Swartz	12/19
Carol Zubovich	12/5	Chris Rechner	12/21
Ted Meyers	12/5	Craig Zimpher	12/28
Anne Fields	12/6	Kathryn Conklin	12/28
Bruce Johnson	12/6	Beth Hylton	12/30
Jill Hinton	12/6	Ken Yeager	12/30
Ted Keller	12/10	Katie Hyre	12/31
Noelle Sicuro	12/10		

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



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 offer heartfelt condolences to the families of:

Pete Zimpher, son of Park and Craig Zimpher passed away peacefully and unexpectedly on October 31. A memorial service was held at Saint Mark's on November 11 and may be viewed at www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/Archived-Services. In memory of Pete, Park and Craig kindly ask those who knew Pete write down their favorite memory of him and send it to them at 2435 Coventry Rd., Columbus, 43221.



Catherine Dunwoodie, daughter of Barb Keyes and step-daughter of Jim Keyes, passed away unexpectedly on November 18. A memorial service will be held in Cincinnati on December 3. A service at Saint Mark's is being planned for December.



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.

We offer prayers for health and healing to:

Jay Iams who is recovering from surgery.

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant weakness may be banished and strength restored; and that, his health being renewed, he may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER 2022

Parish Calendar

www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/Calendar

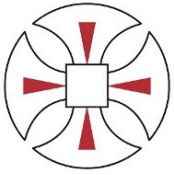
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Nov 27</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Noon Advent Wreath Workshop 8 pm Sunday Night AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 7:30 pm Mon Night Book Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 6:15 Contemplative Prayer</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Dec 1</p> <p>1 pm Knitting and Stitching Group 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am Advent Quiet Morning 10 am Choir Rehearsal 5 pm Supper Group</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Intergenerational First Sunday Outreach Project 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Canterbury Choir Noon Youth Group Mtg 4 pm Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols 8 pm Sunday Night AA</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 7:30 pm Vestry Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4 pm Mount Carmel Grief Program 4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11 am CATCH Court 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent 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 1 pm Street Church 8 pm Sunday Night AA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 6:30 pm Evening Knitting Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 6 pm Christmas by the Clock Caroling 6:15 pm Contemplative Prayer 7 pm Sacred Conversations</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30 am Spices & Diapers 4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Parish Family Dinner</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1 pm Knitting & Stitching Group 5:30 pm Stephen Ministry Mtg 6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent 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 Cookie Walk Noon Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 8 pm Sunday Night AA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Epistle Deadline 10:30 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 7 pm Sisters in Faith</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am Al-Anon 1:30 pm Columbus Clergy 7 pm Outreach Ministry Mtg</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:15 pm AA 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve 5 pm Holy Eucharist w/ Christmas Pageant 11 pm Holy Eucharist for the Eve of the Nativity preceded by</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 8 pm Sunday Night AA</p> <p><i>*Note there will not be an 8 am service on Christmas Day</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed 5:30 pm AA Men's Group 7:30 pm Mon Night Book Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 am Al Anon 6:15 Contemplative Prayer</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30 pm Marksmen</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:15 pm AA 8 pm AA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 8 pm AA</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>Holiday Office Hours</p>						

Holiday Office Hours

Between December 26 and January 2 the office staff will maintain a flexible schedule. Calls and emails will be monitored so if you need to reach someone, please call the office 614-486-9452 or email Melanie

(OfficeManager@saintmarkscolumbus.org) or Pastor Vicki (Rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org).

Normal office hours of Mon - Fri from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. will resume January 3.



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 Dorset Road
Columbus, OH 43221

www.SaintMarksColumbus.org
(614) 486-9452

See inside for a full calendar of events and gatherings and visit www.SaintMarksColumbus.org.

COMING IN DECEMBER

Saturday, December 3

9 a.m. Advent Quiet Morning

Sunday, December 4

4 p.m. A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 13

6 p.m. Christmas by the Clock at Tremont Center

Sunday, December 18

Noon Cookie Walk to benefit Outreach Ministries

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant

10:30 p.m. Carols for Choir and Congregation

11 p.m. Holy Eucharist for the Eve of the Nativity

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II



The Giving Tree, located in the Narthex by the Chapel, is decorated with ornaments with gift suggestions to benefit NNEMAP Christmas Store. Take an ornament and give a gift! Donations will be accepted through December 18. The Giving Tree is a program of Saint Marks' Outreach Ministry.