



ANNUAL PARISH CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016



Saint Mark's 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2015

The 2015 annual meeting was held in the parish hall following the 10:30am worship service, and included a breakfast potluck. The meeting was called to order with a prayer by the Rector, The Rev. K. Paul St. Germain, at 12:15pm. A booklet containing the Rector's report, committee reports, Parish statistics and items to be discussed at the meeting was available for all who attended, as well as for parish members unable to attend the meeting. Barbara Hyre was appointed as the recording secretary for the annual meeting.

MINUTES of the 2014 annual meetings were, upon *motion*, duly *seconded* and *passed*, approved as written.

VESTRY SLATE - The parish appointed Dot Yeager as Treasurer and Barbara Hyre as Vestry Clerk.

The Vestry nominating committee was made up of outgoing Vestry members, Cecily Chester Alexander, Anne McCrae Botti, Martha Lentz, and Sam Slee. The Wardens and Clergy served as ex-officio members. The Nominating Committee brought forth the following slate of candidates for the 2015 Vestry:

Senior Warden – Craig Zimpher

Junior Warden – Jill Hinton

Youth Warden – Katie Turner

Vestry Class of 2018 –Dwight Anstaett, Ted Meyers, Scott Milburn, Seth Wymer

Diocesan Convention Delegates – Anice Ellis, Dave Yeager

Diocesan Convention Alternates – Pat Iams, Seth Wymer

There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were *closed* and by *motion*, *seconded* and *passed*, the nominees were elected by acclamation.

Paul St. Germain thanked everyone for their service, including the Wardens, Vestry, Treasurer, Bookkeepers, Youth Ministers, and all the others who work to keep Saint Mark's running smoothly.

2012 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2013 BUDGET – Dot Yeager presented the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2014, and the budget for 2015. She began her report by acknowledging and thanking the volunteers who help with the financial records and bookkeeping, including Dale Hartney, and Patrick Hreachmack, Gloria Wylie, and Phil Glandon.

Dot explained that the various duties related to Saint Mark's finances are separated to assure appropriate checks and balances. The financial reports are reviewed at every Vestry meeting. An annual audit of financial and accounting practices and statements is conducted by an independent CPA, and the results of the audit are presented to Vestry. The 2014 annual audit was completed with no exceptions noted.

Saint Mark's ended 2014 with \$550,125 in receipts from all sources. Expenses were \$583,715. Saint Mark's ends the 2014 year with a balanced budget by transferring \$29,774 from the Staff Fund.

The 2015 budget was approved by Vestry at the January meeting. Approximately 61% of St. Mark's budget goes toward salaries and benefits, 11% is allocated for facility expenses, and 16% goes toward mission share and outreach. The budget is based on pledges and the history of giving and expenses.

Dot ended her remarks by saying that Saint Mark's has no long term debt other than a copier lease. Dot anticipates balancing the budget for 2015 by using the Staff fund to fill the gap between projected revenues and expenditures.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Phil Glandon gave the Senior Warden's report. He began by thanking Dot for all her work on the budget and financials, and by thanking Dave Yeager for his hard work and expertise in technology.

Phil talked about the blessing that Michael Murray has been to the parish, and thanked the members of the organist search committee for their work in finding Michael's successor, Tyler Robertson. Phil also thanked Matt Bester, Dianne Silliman, and Jeff Porterfield for their leadership on the organ completion fund, which is intended to honor the ministry of Michael and Gary Garber, and to fulfill their dream of finishing the organ.

Phil discussed the project to refurbish the Canterbury Center, including the bequests that funded the project and also covered the unexpected expenses from termite damage that was discovered as the project got underway.

Phil thanked The Rev. Ally Barrett for her ministry with the children of Saint Mark's, and for her part in developing Children's Chapel as a part of the Sunday Re-imagined project.


Phil also thanked the outgoing Vestry members for all their contributions. Phil concluded his presentation by saying that over the past 5 year in serving on Vestry, he has had the pleasure of working with 32 different people, all of whom have been a blessing to the parish.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STAFF – Paul St. Germain thanked the parish staff, including Michael Ellis, Joan Maynard, Matt Bester, Tyler Robertson, Christopher Richardson, Brad and Crystal Essex, Bill Ryan, and Stephanie Huntley, for all their hard work and dedication.

DISMISSAL

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a benediction from Saint Mark's Parish Assistant Rector, Christopher Richardson, at 12:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Hyre

Report of the Nominating Committee

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF OUTGOING VESTRY MEMBERS,
AS WELL AS THE CLERGY AND WARDENS WHO SERVE EX-OFFICIO.

Current Saint Mark's Vestry

SENIOR WARDEN: Craig Zimpher

JUNIOR WARDEN: Jill Hinton

YOUTH WARDEN: Katie Turner

2016 Annual Meeting Elections

CLASS OF 2016	CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018
Martha Belury	Karen Gebhart	Dwight Anstaett
Anne Davidson	Roberta Hurley	Ted Meyers
Pat Iams	Cathy Utgard	Scott Milburn
Jim Keyes	Joanne Drew	Seth Wymer

SENIOR WARDEN

Craig Zimpher

JUNIOR WARDEN

Jill Hinton

YOUTH WARDEN

Mary Drobny

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES (2)

Patrick Hreachmack

Anne Davidson

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ALTERNATES (2)

Waymon McLeskey

Dave Yeager

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

This morning brings us to the first Sunday of our Lenten journey for 2016, and it seems appropriate to look back at the last year and give thanks for some of the events and people which have brought us to this strong, vibrant, and I would like to offer “visionary,” point in our life as a parish.

2015 was not an “ordinary” year at Saint Mark’s—a number of very special things happened— from signing a contract to complete our pipe organ— to continuing a “Re-Imagined” Sunday program with results ranging from challenging to quite extraordinary— to the choir’s residency at Lincoln Cathedral—to the Rector being on sabbatical for three months. As Mr. Spock on the starship Enterprise might say, 2015 was “interesting.” It has positioned us as a parish to take a “visionary” look at where we are, what the many strengths we have might be, and what we would like to build upon and encourage to “prosper” (gosh, there’s Star Trek again—sorry) in 2016.

We begin in a spirit of gratitude for the insightful, caring, and faith-filled ministry of our Wardens Craig Zimpher and Jill Hinton who have guided us through events of many sizes. Together with Christopher Richardson they have made sure that Saint Mark’s did not miss a beat, even as the Rector wondered if he would survive hiking up to the Potala Palace in Tibet at 12,139 feet...

Our Music Director, Matt Bester, and Organist, Tyler Robertson, masterfully completed negotiations with organ builders Casavant Frères and thanks to the generosity of so many people the gift of a beautifully completed pipe organ will bless all of us this Fall. The Vestry has charged the Organ Completion Committee to stay active, and they have plans for a wonderful series of events this year to help all of us participate in a project that happens only rarely in the life of a parish. You and I will have unique opportunities for learning about pipe organs, music, liturgy, and even the intricacies of “thermal-acoustical dynamics” (and no, actually that last one is NOT Star Trek reference—but rather pertains to light bulbs—interested yet?).

Our “Re-Imagined” Sunday has continued to be tweaked (with perhaps more tweaking to come) and has delighted us with the energy around Children’s Chapel—in large part thanks to the presence of the Barrett family who were with us for a large part of last year, and the extraordinary talents of The Rev. Ally Barrett from the Church of England. Our commitment to adult formation on Sunday morning has also been very well received, and we give thanks to Mary Lynn Dell, Joan Maynard and Jim Gebhart for their contributions making learning not only relevant but eclectic.

The Fall of 2015 was a particularly event-filled one for me, as I embarked on a sabbatical across Japan, India, Nepal, China, Tibet and Cambodia. I give heartfelt thanks to Saint Mark’s for the opportunity to explore a number of cultures that fascinated both my imagination and faith. (I give less heart-felt thanks to Master Card, Visa, and American Express for making the trip possible, and the chance to spend the years between now and another sabbatical paying them back!)

During my journey I had the pleasure of learning about faith traditions that at first impression seem quite different from our own—Shintoism, Brahmanism, Hinduism, Muslim, Daoism, Bahn, Sheik, Anamism—to name a few. I have also encountered God and the Holy Spirit in some very unexpected and distant places, and yes, I an even say that I encountered Jesus Christ called by other names (though I am making no claims as to the ten incarnations of Vishnu).

Through all of these adventures, I have been grateful for my faith as a Christian, and for the breadth and depth of the Anglican and Episcopal tradition that has allowed me to keep a mind and heart open to the many ways that God and all that is holy is revealed in our world.

I few years ago I subscribed to a service from the Society of St. John the Evangelist, a group of Episcopal monks in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who have a program called: “Brother, Give us a Word.” This sends out through email each day a word to ponder, and one of the brother’s very short meditation on it. A few days ago that word was “Christian”, and I would like to share Brother Mark Brown’s thoughts on it. He writes:

“Christian”

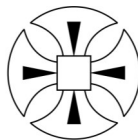
A Christian cannot be cynical: a Christian must believe in the possibility of love made manifest in this world. Love made flesh in countless ways, small and large. A Christian simply must believe in the possibility of love—as elusive as love can sometimes be.

My friends, love can indeed be elusive in our world. God's love can seem distant and remote at times in our lives. But there is one lesson, among many I have learned in the last several months—both in being away from Saint Mark's and returning to it—which stands out among all others. That lesson is the fact that God's love IS present AND powerful AND at work within our community right here and right now. What is more, this love is not only a blessing but an obligation—and obligation to receive this blessing gratefully, and to share it generously not only among ourselves but among those we are called welcome and serve.

This last statement is so important I am going to repeat it: You and I have an obligation to receive this blessing gratefully, and to share it generously not only among ourselves but among those we are called welcome and serve.

So here is our charge as a parish for 2016: to be *grateful receivers* and *generous sharers*. Our parish leadership is already looking at ways to help us live more fully into a place of gratitude and generosity—and what that means as we welcome new members and indeed a new generation of people seeking God in their lives. How can we help one another ask life's questions together? How can we more nearly engage God's grace and healing and love in our world?

In this new year may we all be part of a wonderful, rich, and diverse conversation around these topics—and may our lives, our conversations, and the fruits they may bear be blessed. Amen.



2016 Annual Celebration Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes
3. Introduction of Current Wardens, Vestry, and Convention Delegates
4. Recognition
 - Outgoing Vestry Members
5. Presentation of the Nominating Committee Report
6. Election:
 - Junior and Senior Warden
 - Youth Warden
 - Vestry Members
 - Convention Delegates and Alternates
7. 2015 Financial Report
8. Presentation of 2016 Budget
9. Senior Warden's Address
10. Celebrating What's New on Saint Mark's Website
11. Introduction of Saint Mark's Staff
12. Discussion for the Good of the Parish
13. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

2016 VESTRY NOMINEES

SENIOR WARDEN

CRAIG ZIMPER



Craig's life at Saint Mark's began in 1974 through an introduction to then Rector Ed Chalfant (who later, while Bishop of Maine, married him and his wife, Park in 1987). During the preceding 40 years Saint Mark's has played a very formative role in his life: it's where his three sons have been baptized and confirmed; where he's had the privilege to serve twice on the Vestry; represented the parish at annual diocese meetings; served on the Endowment Fund board; engaged in various outreach activities, most recently with St. John's Town Street ministry; and taught summer Sunday school. Most importantly, during a summer stay at the North Carolina Episcopal retreat center Kanuga, Craig had the opportunity to meet the Rev. James Finn timer, who authored the lay empowering book, *Mutual Ministry*. The book's thesis, which he has also adopted, is that each of us is called to ministry... that's why our Sunday Bulletin refers to "The entire Saint Mark's family" as the ministers! Craig's current "day job" is in public service. After retiring four years ago from Nationwide, Craig was appointed by Gov. Kasich to serve as the Chair of the State Employment Relations Board, the state agency that oversees and adjudicates issues related to Ohio's public sector collective bargaining system.

JUNIOR WARDEN

JILL HINTON



Jill is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and Former teacher and Purchasing Manager for White Castle System, Inc. Jill has been a member of Saint Mark's since 2007 and is active in numerous Enrichment Groups. She is the co-chairperson of the Outreach Ministry Committee, NNEMAP volunteer, member of Supper Group, Book Club, Altar Guild, Usher, and Chairperson of Labor/Neighbor Day Bake Sale since 2010.

YOUTH WARDEN

MARY DROBNY

ONBOARDING/WELCOMING

JOHN OLMSTEAD



John and his wife Kelly have attended Saint Mark's since 2011. They have two daughters, Camille and Lauren, who attend Wellington and Jones Middle School, respectively. John is a Georgia native and University of Georgia grad, and arrived in Columbus in 1998 after a couple prior moves. He currently manages the corporate insurance and reinsurance programs at State Auto Insurance Company, while Kelly works at Hollister in Planning & Inventory Management. John has been an active member in the Upper Arlington community, coaching basketball, soccer and softball, and participating on the Upper Arlington Civic Association and Swim & Racquet boards. Currently he is helping teach J2A Sunday School at Saint Marks. He is also an avid tennis player, but has only had limited success passing on his passion for the sport to Kelly and the girls.

COMMUNICATIONS

BRUCE JOHNSON



Bruce and his wife, Michele, have been members of Saint Mark's since 1992 when they moved to Upper Arlington from Columbia, South Carolina. They sang in the Saint Mark's Choir for over twenty years. Bruce is a Chalice Bearer, Lector, and ever-hopeful member of the Saint Mark's Golf League. He has previously served on the vestry of Saint Mark's and parishes in South Carolina and Michigan. Bruce is a retired faculty member at OSU's Moritz College of Law, where he continues to teach part-time. He and Michele have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. He looks forward to serving this wonderful church community as a member of the vestry.

STEWARDSHIP

LAURA SKORACKI



Laura Skoracki came to Saint Mark's with her husband, Roman, and their two sons, Lukas and Alexander, in the Fall of 2014 after moving from Houston to work at the James Cancer Center. Laura works part time as a Physician Assistant in Head and Neck Surgery. Prior this Laura and her family were faithful members of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston where she served on the care committee, ushered the weekly Taizé services, and served as a Door Person for Godly play. Laura is humbled and honored to serve the church as a vestry member.

OUTREACH
LESLIE WINTERS



Leslie is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Capital University Law School. She practices with the legal team at The Ohio State University Medical Center. She is a resident of Upper Arlington and has been a member of Saint Marks for the last three years. In the past she served on the Communications Committee. Currently she is active with the Gentle Worship Service Planning Committee, the Supper Group and the Outreach Ministry Committee.

CONVENTION DELEGATES
Patrick Hreachmack
Anne Davidson

CONVENTION ALTERNATES
Waymon McLeskey
Dave Yeager

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee
Jim Keyes, Anne Davidson, Martha Belury, and Pat Iams

The Rev. Paul St. Germain

Summary of Financial Information

SUBMITTED BY DOT YEAGER, SAINT MARK'S TREASURER

2015 Operating Results:

- Revenues of \$527,954 were less the budgeted amount of \$561,650 by approximately \$34,000, primarily due to adverse adjustments to member pledges that were confirmed in December.
- Expenditures of \$601,990 were only \$722 more than budget, in spite of unplanned costs for termite treatment and for the placement fee to recruit the new office manager.
- As planned in the 2015 budget, \$39,618, the balance of the Staff Fund, was used in full toward balancing the budget. \$34,418 was transferred from unrestricted bequests to address the revenue shortfall.

2016 Operating Budget:

The operating budget has been prepared after a thorough review of each revenue and expenditure line item. For the last ten years, the gap between operating revenues and operating expenditures has been between \$20,000 and \$40,000. For all but one of those years, the gap was closed with Staff Fund receipts. That fund was established over fifteen years ago to provide the financial stability needed to support a second full-time clergy. Although the Staff Fund sustained the parish over a longer timeframe than initially anticipated, it was used in full in 2015.

An appeal to the parish earlier this year has resulted in over 30 members either increasing their annual pledges or making one-time gifts. This generous and timely response to the appeal has been essential to the development of this budget to minimize the impact on the church's programs and activities.

Revenues: Total revenues of \$538,107 reflect operating pledges received as of January 31, 2016, historical giving patterns for other gifts, and assume a full year of rental income for the Redding Road house.

Expenditures: Difficult choices were needed to provide a budget for which staffing, facilities, and mission share represent almost 90% of the total. Reductions of over \$38,000, compared to 2015 actual expenditures, have been made across all budget categories.

Salaries and benefits: No salary increases are proposed.

Payroll, benefits and payroll taxes for Ministry were reduced by \$9,672 or approximately 5%. Current clergy staffing levels will continue: paid clergy include the full-time rector and full-time assistant rector. The youth minister stipends have been discontinued and that role will be absorbed by the assistant rector.

Payroll, benefits and payroll taxes for Music were reduced by \$5,941 or 5%. The Director of Music has changed from a full-time position of 2,080 annual hours to 1,920 hours per year. The Organist's part-time schedule is unchanged. The office manager is the only other paid position at Saint Mark's and remains at the salary agreed upon at time of hire in May 2015.

Facilities: Termite treatment and Redding Road house vacancy costs are not expected to repeat in 2016. Further, preventive maintenance contracts and utilities will also be reviewed in 2016 to determine if comparable services can be obtained for better pricing.

Diocesan Mission Share: To align with guidelines for calculating Diocesan Mission Share, 14.71% of operating expenditures, certain non-operating expenditures have been excluded from the operating budget and will be addressed through special collections.

Discretionary Outreach:

- Included in the operating budget are \$4,497.95 for Hunger ministries at Open Shelter and St. John's Town Street, \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity, and \$1,000 for Guatemala Mission Trip Scholarships
- Gifts to Episcopal Relief and Development (\$1,750) and Episcopal Community Services Foundation (\$1,000) are non-operating in nature, will be changed to a special offering and treated as "funds for transmittal," rather than included in the annual budget.
- Over \$3,000 in gifts restricted for outreach purposes were received during the year, remain unexpended at year end, and have been set aside in the Outreach Restricted Gifts Fund.

Administration: Savings of \$1,000 are planned for postage expense and \$2,500 in lower expenses in 2016 for computer supplies.

2016 Operating Budget Summary:

The difference between total revenues of \$538,107 and total expenditures of \$564,050 is a shortfall of \$25,943, which is addressed by \$19,720 from the replenished Staff Fund and the use of \$6,417 in unrestricted bequests.

The Vestry's stewardship team has already begun efforts to address the need for revenue growth for the future, to sustain the level of resources needed to continue Saint Mark's mission in our community.

Capital Expenditures

Canterbury Center:

In early 2015, work was substantially completed on the Canterbury Center with expenditures of \$34,729.

Organ Fund:

In August 2015, the vestry authorized a budget for the Organ Completion Project of \$700,010. A contract was signed with Casavant in September 2015 for \$690,715. Funding for the project comes from expected pledges of \$650,000, \$25,000 from unrestricted gifts (to be reimbursed from future fundraising) and \$25,000 from fund raising events to occur this year. To date, actual pledges of \$645,949 have been made, of which 91% or \$589,009 has been received. Payments totaling \$276,286 have been made to date.

Saint Mark's Finances 2/07/16	Period to Date - December 2015			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	2016 Budget
Member Contributions - pledged	\$448,625	\$480,274	\$ (31,649)	\$ 455,384
Member Contributions - non pledged	20,281	20,726	(445)	\$ 20,281
Plate & non-pledge receipts	23,202	22,000	1,202	\$ 23,152
Other (rent, Endowment income, etc.)	25,206	32,000	(6,794)	\$ 30,247
Self-Sustaining Fund Reimbursements	10,640	6,650	3,990	\$ 9,043
Total Revenue	\$527,954	\$561,650	\$ (33,696)	\$ 538,107
Payroll, Benefits and Payroll Taxes	\$362,308	365,133	\$ 2,825	\$ 344,395
Facilities	77,176	79,800	2,624	\$ 72,375
Diocesan Mission Share	87,874	88,373	499	\$ 82,929
Administration	46,577	37,800	(8,777)	40,636
Outreach	10,349	10,500	151	6,599
Music, Fellowship & Other (see below)	5,723	5,900	177	5,757
Christian Formation (see below)	2,440	2,900	460	2,316
Self-Sustaining Activities	9,543	6,650	(2,893)	9,043
Capital Replacement Reserve	-	4,212	4,212	-
Total Disbursements	\$601,990	\$601,268	\$ (722)	\$ 564,050
Net income (deficit) before reimbursements	(74,036)	(39,618)	(34,418)	(25,943)
Staff Fund used for operations	39,618	39,618	-	19,720
Transfer from Unrestricted Bequests	34,418	-	(34,418)	6,417
Net income (deficit)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 1,286	\$ 1,000	\$ (286)	1,230
Fellowship and events	796	500	(296)	796
Other hospitality	497	500	3	497
Enrichment groups	51	100	49	50
Music	2,681	3,000	319	2,384
Worship expense	412	800	388	800
Music, Fellowship & Other	\$ 5,723	\$ 5,900	\$ 177	\$ 5,757
Elementary ed.	\$ 422	700	278	422
Middle School	-	200	200	
Nursery care	1,040	1,200	160	1,200
Confirmation	280	300	20	280
Other	164	-	(164)	164
Adult Education	534	500	(34)	250
Christian Formation	\$ 2,440	\$ 2,900	\$ 460	\$ 2,316
Flower Guild	5,194	3,300	(1,894)	5,194
Altar Guild	968	1,100	132	968
Vacation Bible School	1,130	1,000	(130)	1,130
Youth Group	1,121	1,250	129	621
Funeral Reception	1,130	-	(1,130)	1,130
Self Sustaining Total	\$ 9,543	\$ 6,650	\$ (2,893)	\$ 9,043

Summary of Designated Fund Balances at December 31, 2015

Altar Guild		\$ 1,375		Organ Fund		\$ 300,208
Canterbury Choir		\$ 8,988		Outreach Restricted Gifts		\$ 7,015
Choir England Trip		\$ 2,076		Special Music		\$ 5,027
Flower Guild		\$ 5,669		Staff Fund		\$ 6,000
Funeral Receptions		\$ 1,198		Trinity Guild		\$ 26,774
Gary L. Garber Scholarship Fund		\$ 4,025		Unrestricted Gifts		\$ 6,417
Gentle Worship		\$ 2,657		Vacation Bible School		\$ 1,845
Major Projects		\$ 23,006		Verger Guild		\$ 1,051
Memorial Garden		\$ 14,077		Women's Ministry		\$ 551
Memorial Gifts		\$ 5,029		Youth Mission		\$ 3,840

Endowment Fund

Annual Meeting Report from the Endowment Trustees

Saint Mark's Endowment Fund was established in 1978 to protect Saint Mark's long term financial position. The Endowment Fund is governed and managed by a separately elected board of trustees.

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund during 2015 were: Ellen Berndt (Chair), Dan Morton (Treasurer), Jeff Porterfield, Bruce Johnson and Phil Glandon.

The Trustees met in person twice during the year. The major activity in 2015 was moving the fund to The Columbus Foundation where Saint Mark's has other accounts and there are more diverse investment alternatives. At December 31, 2015, the Saint Mark's Endowment Fund totaled \$260,381.51.

Saint Mark's Parish Statistics 2015

NUMBER OF SERVICES: Sundays 116 (2014 – 112)
Weekdays 138 (2014 – 125)

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 2015 – 12,744 (2014 – 12,322) (2013 – 12,883) (2012–14,778)

SPECIAL DAYS:	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
FIRST LENT:	154	188	179	192	188	196
EASTER:	505	487	442	494	406	421
PENTECOST:	188	162	277	237	202	207
CHRISTMAS:	465	497	473	490	459	481

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:

JANUARY – MAY: 173 (2014 – 197) (Does *not* include Easter)
JUNE – AUGUST: 143 (2014 – 157)
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER: 181 (2014 – 213) (Does *not* include Christmas)
OVERALL AVERAGE: 161 (2014 – 189) (Does *not* include Easter and Christmas)

BAPTISMS: 9
NEW MEMBERS: 23

WEDDINGS: 1
BURIALS: 9

CONFIRMATIONS: 7
TRANSFERS OUT: 5
MOVED TO INACTIVE: 23
ACTIVE COMMUNICANTS: approximately 425

TOTAL MEMBERS: approximately 805

Assistant Rector's Report

2015 was another busy year here at Saint Mark's. So many events have happened in the life of this parish, I could not possibly cover all of them. I will, however, do my best to summarize what I have been up to for the past year.

Parish Life

In 2015, the young adult meetings shifted from "dinners with theological conversations" (a very lofty, and ultimately unrealized, goal) to "events." There was an event planned for every almost every month.

- February – Starbucks
- March – Trivia Night at Grandview Café
- April – Art Walk (Short North)
- May – Memorial Day Cookout
- June – Bowling
- July – Art Walk (Clintonville)
- August – Dinner at Cap City, Grandview
- September – Candle Making followed by Dinner in Grandview

Some of these events were well attended (bowling had the most people) while others turned into a date night with just me and my wife. These types of events will continue to happen in 2016.

For Lent last year, I did "Christ Walk", a daily devotion based on doing physical activity, in addition to Lent Madness. My goal for Christ Walk was to get in an average of 10,000 steps each day. My average was much closer to 5,000. I had a Lent Madness first, wherein I actually picked the winner of the Golden Halo. Alas, I missed too many other picks to claim bragging rights and the opportunity to choose which fund would receive the money raised for Lent Madness.

Last March, I began leading classes to prepare a group of youth for confirmation. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal, visited us in May and led us in a service to confirm the faith of those youth.

In April, I had the joy and pleasure of accompanying the Canterbury Choir's trip to Washington, D.C. That trip happened to coincide with the Cherry Blossom festival (so we were able to get even more wonderful pictures than a normal trip to our nation's capital) and culminated with a wonderful worship experience at our National Cathedral.

July began with the annual trip to Guatemala, on which I was again blessed to take part. Quite possibly the best part of the trip was seeing how much the other participants had changed when we got back.

At the end of August, Paul left for his Sabbatical. That left me with a few extra responsibilities. I have already thanked many people in my final cover article for *The Epistle*, but I really would not have been nearly as effective a leader in that time without their help. Thanks again to everyone who helped Saint Mark's continue to be the dynamic and wonderful expression of Christ's body here in Upper Arlington.

September saw the beginning of a new ministry opportunity for me. Starting on September 2, I have spent almost every Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm at Crimson Cup Coffee as my "Out of Office" office hours. Many people have stopped by and visited with me, and many conversations were had that would not have been possible during my "regular" office hours.

Finally, in December, we were able to launch our new website. If you still haven't seen it, you should put this down, go to a computer, and put SaintMarksColumbus.org in your browser's url bar right now. This new website has well over 100 pages of carefully curated content ranging from how to get to Saint Mark's and what times we hold services to information on the Anglican Communion to what it means to serve on vestry, to...you get the idea.

Diocesan Life

July was a busy month for me. Just a couple of days after returning from Guatemala, I was off to London! Well, London, OH, anyway. I spent the week as a chaplain for the 8th and 9th grade camp at Procter. I like to think of Procter as my "Summer Home" and cannot recommend going to a camp session enough.

For the first time in a number of years, I did not serve on a council or task force for the diocese. While I do enjoy serving the diocese at large, I was glad to have a bit of a respite, especially given how busy 2015 was already.

Personal Development

In 2015, my personal development, once again, came in attending the "PLAY! Praising God in Life and Worship" conference. This year, it was held at St. Stephen's, Columbus on April 17th & 18th. Over the course of those two days, I was able to explore ways to improve ministry and leadership using the core ideas of improvisational theatre and examine new ways of building community.

2015 was a very busy year, and I am incredibly thankful to have had so many opportunities to engage in work for God's Kingdom. 2016 looks like it will bring even more opportunities my way. Kingdom of God, here we come!

Music Department's 2015 Annual Report

Without a doubt, 2015 was a phenomenal year for music at Saint Mark's! The contract to complete the parish organ was signed, both choirs undertook significant travel while singing at an exceedingly high level throughout the year, and the parish hosted numerous special events, two of which had audiences of more than 300 people.

The big story of 2015 was the signing of a contract with the Quebec-based organ builders Casavant Frères to complete the parish organ by the end of summer 2016. In less than three years, the parish has raised more than 90% of the money necessary to complete the organ, helped by an enormously successful Buy-a-Pipe campaign in 2015. In August the Vestry voted unanimously to proceed with the signing of the completion contract before the price increased, as it does annually by as much as 5%. The completed organ will feature a new console with three manual keyboards, a new expressive division of stops (including a majestic tuba stop for moments of particular grandeur), and a total of 14 new stops, or tone colors. All told, the finished instrument will comprise 35 stops, 41 ranks, and 2450 pipes (up from 21 stops, 27 ranks, and 1601 pipes). If everything remains on schedule, the organ will be completed (and the final bill due) by the end of this coming July. The Organ Completion Committee, chaired by Anne Davidson, Jeff Porterfield, and Dianne Silliman, is profoundly grateful for the incredible generosity exhibited by members and friends of the parish who have made this exciting project possible.

The year also was marked by major trips by both choirs. Over the summer, the Saint Mark's Choir undertook a thrilling ten-day pilgrimage to England, serving as Choir-in-Residence for a week at Lincoln Cathedral. During its residency week, the choir sang a total of eight services, each with its own unique music. The cathedral staff was highly complementary of our visit, calling us one of the best visiting choirs that they have welcomed. The Canterbury Choir, meanwhile, thoroughly enjoyed its triennial trip to Washington D.C., where we visited Washington National Cathedral and the National Gallery of Art.

Of course, the choirs also were very active here at home. In addition to its regular Sunday morning duties, the Saint Mark's Choir sang three services of Choral Evensong (in March, June, and November), services of Choral Eucharist and Choral Matins, our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, and numerous special services during Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week. The choir also performed a splendid Farewell Concert in July just days before departing for England. The Canterbury Choir also participated in numerous special events, leading a service of Choral Evensong in May, singing as part of our Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, providing music for Christmas Eve and Easter, performing with the Ohio State University Men's Glee Club during their concert at Saint Mark's, and caroling at Tremont Center.

Saint Mark's also hosted numerous additional concerts, several of which were very strongly attended. In January the excellent xYz Woodwind Quintet returned to Saint Mark's for a delightful concert of newer works. In February the parish welcomed the Ohio State Men's and Women's Glee Clubs for a standing-room-only concert in benefit of the Organ Completion Fund, an event in which the Canterbury Choir had the pleasure to perform with the Men's Glee Club. In May several members of the Saint Mark's Choir (under the name Cappella San Marco) performed a gorgeous concert of music by Byrd and Palestrina in benefit of the choir's England Trip. In October, our outstanding organist Tyler Robertson performed a wonderful concert with trumpeter Jesse Heetland in benefit of the homeless ministries at St. John's, Town Street. In November, Saint Mark's hosted the annual Harmony for Hunger Concert in benefit of NNEMAP, an event that once again drew a capacity crowd and featured performances by Tyler and our own outstanding baritone Jaman Dunn, in addition to artists from other area churches.

What a year it was! It would not have been possible without the hard work and assistance of countless people, including Tyler; our outstanding section leaders; the dedicated volunteer members of both choirs; the Canterbury Choir parents, especially choir moms Jodi Hess and Joanne Drew; our office staff and supportive clergy; the many volunteers who assist with special events, including hospitality, worship assistants, and ushers; and the many supporters of the music program at Saint Mark's. Thank you to all!

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Bester

Saint Mark's gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the many individuals and organizations who pledged or contributed to the Organ Completion Fund during 2015. Those who contributed by check or other recorded means are listed below. We also thank those who contributed by cash but whose names are not known to us. We apologize for any unintended omissions.

Larry and Cindy Anderson
Jonathan and Amy Andrews
Judy Babcock
Mark and Mary Baldwin
Sue Barna
G. Dene Barnard
Christine Barth
Pat Barton
Martha Belury
Ellen Berndt
Matthew and Stefanie Bester
Laura Blomquist
Regan and Aaron Bohnert
Belle Boles
David and Cheryl Boop
Chip and Anne Botti
Stuart Brace
Kirk Buckham
Canterbury Choir 2014–2015
Dick and Dottie Comfort
Anne Davidson
Michael and Leslie Dick
Amy and Rupert Dooley
Mark and Joanne Drew
Kathy Drobny
Bev Dunkel
William Dunlap
Michael and Anice Ellis
Anne Fields
William and Jean Gabel
Gary Garber
James and Karen Gebhart
Laura Gentner
Jim and Ann Getz
Virginia Giggi
Phil and Lynn Glandon

Gayle Glanville
Steven and Linda Handley
David and Wendy Hauswirth
George Hauswirth
Nyla Heerema
Emelie Heltsley
Steve and Jodi Hess
Tom and Robbie Hurley
Beth Hylton
Andy and Casie Iams
Jay and Pat Iams
Mildred Kiefer
Lynn and Bruce Klemesrud
Beverly and Tony Kovacevich
Jane Krastel
Tim Laffin
Judy Leach
Marty Lentz
Peter and Lou Lenz
Edward Maag
David and Rachel Markwardt
David and Patricia McKitterick
Ted Meyers
George Michael
Mark and Mary Milligan
Dan and Roberta Morton
Deborah Morton
Michael Murray
Jeff and Aaron Porterfield
George Reed
Deryk and Nadya Richardson
Liz Richmond
Rob and Marti Rideout
Tyler Robertson
Susan Rogers
Bill and Linda Ryan

Joy Sargent
Fred Schill
Bill and Colleen Shillington
Amber Shindhelm
Bill and Dianne Silliman
Roman and Laura Skoracki
Sam Slee
Marilyn Smith
Elaine Spayde
Paul St. Germain
Bob and Ila Jean Stamper
Mary Stine
Darlene Sullivan
Robert Tannous
Donna Taylor
Mary K. Tustison
Virginia Tuttle
Jim and Kris Vaigl
Terry and Angie Wallenbrock
Mary Jane Weals
Collin and Linda Wheeler
Rick Wheeler
Joseph and Patricia Wiedner
Jay and Barbara Wilcox
Leslie Winters
Seth and Melissa Wymer
Dave and Dot Yeager
Diane Young
Bob Zicht
Craig and Park Zimpher
Frank Zubovich



Senior Warden's Report

To serve the Saint Mark's parish is an honor, blessing, and role filled with opportunities. Our parish family has continued to grow, develop spiritually, and continue its important missionary and service to the broader community.

Our liturgical life continues to be blessed both with outstanding theological and spiritual preaching by our pastoral staff, led by Rector Paul St. Germain and strongly enhanced and complimented by Christopher Richardson, and Deacon Joan Maynard and Mary Lynn Dell. Matthew Bester, our Director of Music and organist Tyler Robertson continue to provide an outstanding musical corollary to our worship experience. Our gratitude and appreciation for these combined contributions are deep and sincere.

We have also been very fortunate to have found a wonderful new office manager, Ms. Melanie Jacobs, whose smile and professional demeanor greet us during our visits to the parish office.

This year's departing vestry members, Martha Belury, Anne Davidson, Pat Iams, Katie Turner, and Jim Keyes, have served you tirelessly and with wisdom and keen insights. Each of these soon to be "former" vestry members always put the parish's best interests above all else. They honored us with their dedication and devotion.

I am also very grateful that Bill Karl has agreed to serve as "campus" maintenance overseer. Bill's keen eye for detail, knowledge of the physical plant, and prudence will help keep our wonderful facilities up to speed and on par! Bill Ryan, similarly, has served us in so many roles related to major physical construction or repair projects. We're also fortunate to enjoy his skill sets and good humor.

The major capital project which has occupied much of our attention during the last several years, the organ completion fund, has now, by God's grace, been brought to completion and work has commenced on this exciting project. Completion of the project may yet occur later this year! Many thanks to all who have made this dream come true!

In earlier communications I have discussed the state of our parish finances. We have made every effort to inform and communicate in as transparent a manner as possible. Completing and preparing a balanced budget for 2016 has required, very frankly, a significant amount of study, evaluation, and priority setting. Our goal has remained consistent...preserve as much as possible of all of the services we enjoy at Saint Mark's, i.e., pastoral care, music, liturgy, outreach, formation, member care, youth programs, and importantly, Christian formation.

To achieve this objective I convened a task force, comprised of our fellow parish members, who spent hours in consultation with me, our Rector, and the Junior Warden. Their insights and ideas reflected, I believe, the broader parish interests and I am indebted to their contributions and counsel.

The generosity of our members, through separate giving and contributions to help mitigate the potential financial shortfalls has been most gratifying and demonstrates the wonderful spirit of generosity that resides in Saint Mark's.

But we can't, as the saying goes, "rest on our laurels!" The Stewardship Committee has rededicated itself to exploring and developing new and realistic methods of enhancing opportunities for stewardship. There are exciting and creative programs the Committee will examine and present to the parish as the year unfolds. Under the leadership of Junior Warden Jill Hinton, we will undertake a thorough evaluation of existing parish operations and expenses. We'll look from top to bottom to assure every dollar is being spent in the most effective and prudent manner.

Through all of these measures, and with the continued spirit of generosity, care, and mutual regard for each other, I am very confident that Saint Mark's will continue to grow, prosper in the Holy Spirit, and be a haven in God's Kingdom for all who seek His blessing, guidance, and grace.

Submitted by Craig Zimpher

Enrichment Group Ministries

Enrichment groups (EGs) at Saint Marks continue to thrive with more than 30 groups of varying focus active within the parish! Whether your interests lie in sports, knitting, music, cooking (and eating!), reading or beyond, there are a number of groups at Saint Mark's for a wide variety of interests.

The listing of EGs is ever evolving and can be found in the Parish Hall and on the "new" Saint Mark's website. From www.saintmarkscolumbus.org, click on "Ministries" and then on the photo under the "Enrichment Groups" header. EG coordinators are encouraged to keep their contact information in the online parish directory current and to notify both the Vestry liaison and the Parish Office of any changes to ensure those interested in joining one of the EGs at Saint Mark's can find the right people easily.

I will echo the sentiments expressed last year by my predecessors, Anne Davidson and Marty Lentz: Enrichment Group involvement is critical to our parish mission through support of our parish programs, worship and community outreach as well as to the fostering of friendships and caring response to members of our parish family.

Submitted by Ted Meyers

Communications Team

- High School and College graduates were identified and recognized in the Epistle.
- Event letters started in the form of brochures/invitations that were developed and sent to children eligible for Nursery, Sunday School, and **J2A**.
- "From the Parish Registry", a column of happenings among parishioners, continues in the Epistle.
- "God Moment" series started in December with NNEMAP in which outreach and other member activities are highlighted through the God Moments that participants experience. Recently completed: Open Shelter lunches and Guatemala Teens. Coming soon: St. John's Town Street dinners, Gardeners of the Memorial Garden, Street Church, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, possibly Stephen Ministry as well as **other** groups that are identified.
- A welcome letter and bookmark to be sent to newcomers are in development. Efforts have begun to start reaching out to those who sign the guest book, complete a pew card through a brief e-mail asking if they wish to receive the Epistle and/or the weekly e-mails. These projects are being developed with the input of the Welcoming committee.
- "How to Join Saint Mark's" information was developed and disseminated in the Epistle, weekly bulletin (periodically) and in the pew cards. Also covered through Paul's e-mail system.
- **We believe it would be good idea to produce an interesting, readable piece about the new website. Theme: what else can you do on the new website?**

Submitted by Robbie Hurley and Jim Keyes

Formation, Children and Youth Report

Another year has passed in our “Re-imagined” Sundays at Saint Mark’s and things are still moving forward. Adult formation under the guidance of our clergy has seen large numbers attend various courses on Scripture, Theology, Current Events, and the ever-popular “Where in the World was Paul St. Germain: A Review of Paul’s Sabbatical Travels and the Faiths There-in”.

Saint Mark’s offer’s a formation option for its youth, a brief description of each is below:

- Godly Play: Children in preschool through the Kindergarten use the Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play presents parables and sacred stories using wooden figures, simple language, and liturgical action to help children become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives.
- Sunday School: Children in first through fifth grades use the “Celebrate The Good News” series. This year we begin with Children’s Chapel united in our middle classroom. We then divide the group with first and second graders staying in that classroom and the third to fifth graders heading to their classroom. Each group has approximately 20 minutes to extend their learning of the Gospel. We currently have 15 students registered in our Sunday elementary programs (Godly Play and Church School combined).
- Junior High and High School: Junior high and high school students use the Journey to Adulthood curriculum.
 - This begins with Rite 13 and J2A for 6-9th graders. Rite 13 celebrates the individuality of each young person and his/her creative potential, while exploring Bible stories of God and God’s people. Both programs help 6-9th graders create and understand the importance of Christian community as they develop critical thinking skills that they will need in adulthood. Average Sunday attendance for Rite 13 and J2A is 2-4.
 - Young Adults in the Church (YAC) is a program for 10-12th graders which empowers young people to be active members in our church community. Average Sunday attendance for Rite 13 is 2 students. Average Sunday attendance for J2A is 2 students. Average Sunday attendance for YAC is 2-4 students.

In 2015 we “Re-imagined” our Sunday School line-up to be less “classroom learning” with a more social time for the Sunday School aged children from 9:30-10:30 called Fellowship Hour. At 10:30 the Sunday School aged children would break off and go to Children’s Chapel, which has moved from the choir room to the vacant classroom in the education wing, which has allowed more time for worship rather than travel.

While attendance is down across the three groups there is a growing movement to look at other programs and different ways to attract more youth into our program which is very exciting.

Other youth activities that are a part of Saint Mark’s:

- Christmas Pageant: Many thanks to the Keller family for again directing this year’s Christmas Pageant, a Saint Mark’s tradition. The utilization of Saint Mark’s new sound system certainly has enhanced the production, making it more professional. We have seen a steady increase in the number of children participating -- 10% per year over the past three years. The Keller family plans to direct the pageant in 2016.
- Youth Group: Middle-schoolers and high-schoolers have the opportunity to socialize in a safe, fun environment under the direction of our youth ministers, Brad and Crystal Essex. Some activities they enjoyed this year included: ice-skating, watching movies, attending Wildlights at the Zoo, going to Vertical Adventures, going Christmas shopping at the mall, and working on service projects.
- Nursery: Our congregation seems to be growing younger, and our nursery attendance reflects this. Marilyn Karl has done an amazing job spearheading the Nursery sign-up. In addition, we had two paid high-school workers this year who worked alternate weeks, supplemented by a 9-member volunteer staff. We have also begun opening the nursery during special events such as Evensong.

Conclusion

There is a lot of educational and social opportunities for our youth here at Saint Mark’s, and while numbers may be of some concern, there is an openness to explore new avenues to keep the youth at Saint Mark’s engaged.

Submitted by Scott Milburn and Cathy Utgard

Stewardship Report

In 2015, the Stewardship Committee communications to the congregation focused largely on the fall stewardship campaign. The committee consisted of co-chairs Anne Davidson and Scott Milburn, as well as Dot Yeager, Phil Glandon, Seth Wymer, Jeff Porterfield, Cecily Alexander, the Wardens, Craig Zimpher and Jill Hinton as well as the Rector and Assistant Rector, Paul St. Germain+ and Christopher Richardson+, respectively.

The committee began working in May, 2015, with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) website theme of God The Giver. Other TENS materials and letter templates were used/modified during the campaign to assist the Committee with communications. The committee was focused on making sure that all of needed letters were completed before the Rector, Paul St. Germain+, left for his Sabbatical in late August.

We continued the previous year's observance of the Anglican custom of the Beating of the Bounds during the 10:30 a.m. service the week prior to the first Share the Story speaker. In conjunction with the theme of God The Giver, Christopher, the choir, and a trumpeter led the congregation around the eastern boundaries of the church while singing Lift High the Cross to stake Saint Mark's' boundaries. The day could not have been more beautiful and the event was well received by the congregation.

In the weeks to follow, Sarah Botti, Jay Iams, and Laura and Roman Skoracki delivered wonderful and compelling stories of their membership at Saint Mark's and what that has meant to them and their families.

November 8 was Ingathering Sunday. As of this writing, 142 Saint Mark's members have pledged a total of \$455,884 for 2016. There were 55 members who increased their pledges over what they had pledged in 2015. That is amazing! Last year's annual report had 144 pledges totaling \$453,608 in 2015. We are delighted to report that Saint Mark's has also received 17 new pledges for this coming year.

However, in spite of this promising news, Saint Mark's has found itself in a financial crunch. In the past, Saint Mark's has relied on a now depleted Staff Fund and bequests to balance the annual budget. Those sources of funding were not available for the 2016 budget year. That has resulted in the establishment of a Finance Task Force that has reviewed the line item budget of sources of revenue and expenditures to search for places in which either increases in revenue or decreases in expenditures might be found and acted on. Cuts in expenditures have occurred as a result. Saint Mark's must proceed by living within its actual/projected revenue. This coming year will be crucial in ensuring the continuation of wonderful programs that we enjoy in our parish by establishing new ways of inspiring generosity in our congregation.

Looking ahead, at the request of the Senior Warden and the Rector, Anne Davidson will remain as a Co-Chair of the Stewardship Committee, although her term on the Vestry will end in February, 2016. Scott Milburn will continue as co-chair, and we are excited to announce that Laura Skoracki will be joining the Vestry as an additional Stewardship Committee representative!

Efforts are underway to enhance the depth and breadth of the Stewardship Committee membership. In addition, we hope to expand our engagement and relationship with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship in the year going forward. We intend to focus on our Mission Statement and to provide year round communication about the multitude of ways that Saint Mark's' ministries benefit members of the congregation and the other communities that we serve.

We want the good works that Saint Mark's is engaged in to be visible to the members of the church and, as a result, we hope that all of us will be prayerfully moved to a faithful life of generosity going forward.

Submitted by Anne Davidson and Scott Milburn

Hospitality Committee

Our committee was quite busy during 2015. We were involved in providing ten receptions which included such special events as the Annual Parish Brunch, four Evensongs, the Choir Farewell Concert, recognition of the departure of our English friends - the Barrett Family, Feast of All Saints, and ended the year with a beautiful Advent of Lessons and Carols. These events were well-received with favorable comments and an increase in attendance.

Looking ahead, we are currently discussing ways of increasing visibility of our activities with the intent of extending Saint Mark's welcome mat.

We want to convey our great appreciation and thanks for the efforts and willingness of all those volunteers who helped make these events such a success. We certainly could not have done it without them!

Submitted by Karen Gebhart and Joanne Drew

Outreach Ministry

Matthew 22:37-39. "I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked, and you clothed me; sick, and in prison, and you visited me."

For several years, the Outreach Ministry has prioritized needs. We give money and/or service to international, national, and especially local projects. Whenever possible, the Ministry wants to have "helping hands" in the projects. Our committee, which meets once a month, has 15 to 20 regular members, many of whom chair individual projects, but we seek to involve as many parishioners as possible. The Vestry allocated \$10,500 for our use, but by careful planning, fundraisers, and in-kind donations Outreach has a much bigger impact.

Episcopal Relief & Development. International. Provides care in crisis situations: hurricanes, tornadoes, and other disasters. Our funds this year were designated for the Nepal earthquake victims. We make the ERD "Gifts for Life" catalogs available to inform parishioners and enable them to donate individually. In 2016, the money for ERD will come from a special collection in church rather than the Outreach budget, but we will try to keep the congregation aware of the activities of ERD.

Guatemala Mission Trip. International. Outreach designated \$1500. for a scholarship so a parishioner who might not be able to afford air fare might be able to travel to be part of our mission work at La Labor. We also provided a one time gift to the La Labor Clinic, and we collect books (in Spanish), dental supplies, band aids, and shoes to send with our volunteers.

United Thank Offering. International and national. Grants are provided to worthy projects. Boxes are given to parishioners in November, and parishioners were asked to contribute to the boxes for the blessings which occur in their lives.

Episcopal Community Services Foundation. Diocesan. ECSF provides grants to Outreach programs in parishes in the Diocese. The programs are aimed at reducing poverty. The Grant's Committee studies and visits each site to identify those who are meeting their goals and to assist those who are not. In addition to a \$1000. Cash gift, one of our Outreach members volunteers on the Grants' Committee. This project will also be funded in 2016 by a special collection.

Habitat for Humanity. Local. Habitat is a collaboration of NW churches to build a home for an identified family. Outreach gave \$1000 cash and had one parishioner who volunteered regularly. We remain stymied about how to involve more parishioners.

NNEMAP. Local. A food pantry located near the Fairgrounds. Several of our Outreach members volunteer regularly. We gave cash, and we collect food staples to send regularly to the pantry. Each year, we collect grooming items. This year, we collected more than our goal of 250 toothbrushes and 250 toothpastes. We hosted a very successful fundraiser "Harmony for Hunger" at Saint Mark's.

Open Shelter Lunches. Local. The Open Shelter provides food, clothing, and counseling for Columbus' most vulnerable poor. A group of Saint Mark's members pack 180 bag lunches for the Open Shelter for the fifth Thursdays of named months.

St. John's Columbus Dinners. Local. St. John's provides 120 to 140 meals each Wednesday during the school year to neighborhood folks and homeless people who live on the river. We provide a nutritious meal 4 - 5 times per year. The meal is cooked and served by about 10 volunteers.

St. John's Columbus Street Church. Local. St. John's hosts an afternoon Eucharist at the corner of Broad and Central. Saint Mark's provides lunch after the service about five times a year. 6 - 8 volunteers cook and/or attend the service and serve the meal. As we participate in the service, we gain an understanding of the vulnerable people who attend this service. This year, we provided profits from our Cookie Walk to the St. John's Rector's Fund so Rev. Lee Ann Reit could purchase coats, boots, etc. for those at the service who are especially in need.

Women's Respite Birthday Bags. Local. In partnership with other churches, we helped to provide a Respite for women who may never have even celebrated a birthday. The women are chosen by social service agencies. One of our members cooks for the 2 day event. Others provide "birthday bags" with items to pamper the women.

Giving Tree. Local. This was our third year to collect Christmas Gifts for the Homeless Families Foundation. The gifts are requested, tags are hung on the tree with requests. Once fulfilled, the gifts are taken to the Homeless Families Foundation where families can choose and wrap the gifts. Over 300 gifts were donated=\$1000. \$375 in gift cards were also donated. We also collected school supplies and backpacks in August.

"Help Heal Hunger". Local. This is our big fundraising project in conjunction with UA's Labor-Neighbor Day. This year we gave about \$1200 to NNEMAP. Nearly the whole parish participates in baking, selling, set-up, or clean-up.

Cookie Walk. (Local). Our annual Cookie Walk gives us a chance to share Christmas delights. Our profit of \$922 was given to the discretionary fund of Rev. LeeAnn Reit so she could provide warm clothing to neighbors if need be.

In 2016, the Outreach Ministry has decided to take on at least three new projects:

- Lunches for Catch Court, a Franklin County Court dedicated to recovery of women arrested as prostitutes.
- Community Refugee Immigration Services. We may adopt a refugee family or provide welcome kits for the newly arrived.
- Heroin in Upper Arlington. An information night for Saint Mark's parents and grandparents (plus any other interested parishioners).

The Outreach Ministry welcomes visitors to any or all meetings. We hope for increasing participation in projects. And we are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this manner. For more information, contact one of the co-chairs: Pat Iams or Marilyn Smith.

Submitted by Pat Iams and Marilyn Smith



United Thank Offering
Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love



SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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PHONE (614) 486-9452 • **FAX** (614) 486-4023

info@saintmarkscolumbus.org • www.saintmarkscolumbus.org

Saint Mark's celebrates Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 12 noon.

Staff:

The Rev. Paul St. Germain, *Rector*
The Rev. Christopher C. Richardson, *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Mary Lynn Dell, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Michael Ellis, *Affiliate Priest*
The Rev. Joan Maynard, *Deacon*
Dr. Matthew Bester, *Director of Music*
Tyler W. Robertson, *Organist*
Gary L. Garber, *Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus*
Dr. Michael Murray, *Organist Emeritus*
Don McConnell, *Head Verger*
Brad and Crystal Essex, *Youth Ministers*
Bill Ryan, *Campus Manager*
Melanie Jacobs, *Office Manager*

Ministers:

The Entire Saint Mark's Family

Vestry Members:

Craig Zimpher, *Senior Warden*
Jill Hinton, *Junior Warden*
Katie Turner, *Youth Warden*
Dwight Anstaett, *Onboarding/Welcoming*
Martha Belury, *Onboarding/Welcoming*
Anne Davidson, *Stewardship*
Joanne Drew, *Hospitality*
Karen Gebhart, *Hospitality*
Robbie Hurley, *Communications*
Pat Iams, *Outreach*
Jim Keyes, *Communications*
Ted Meyers, *Enrichment Groups*
Scott Milburn, *Stewardship*
Cathy Utgard, *Formation*
Seth Wymer, *Formation*
Dot Yeager, *Treasurer*
Barbara Hyre, *Clerk*

Mission Statement:

Saint Mark's seeks to be a Christ-centered congregation where people can come to understand and strengthen their relationships with God. We want everyone to feel included, to be nurtured spiritually and for our worship together to be a bond for Christian education and fellowship. As a caring community we strive to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, ministering to one another both within and beyond the parish.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN AT HOME
OR IN THE BLUE RECYCLING BINS IN THE PARISH HALL.

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:
[@saintmarkscols](https://twitter.com/saintmarkscols)

Who We Are:



Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark's held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ's ministry within and beyond our parish.



Saint Mark's is a member of the Episcopal Church in the United States – a community of 2.4 million members in 114 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. *Episcopal* means a church with bishops. Bishops are the leaders of the church and spiritual descendants of the apostles of Jesus Christ. We are also part of the worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of 82 million members in more than 160 countries. *Anglican* are those churches who trace their history to the Church of England.



Whoever you are, and wherever you may be on the journey of the Spirit,
The Episcopal Church welcomes you.