

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church 2023 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual Meeting February 11, 2024



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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2023 Staff, Vestry, Delegates and Trustees

Staff

Rector	The Rev. Vicki Zust
Director of Music	Dr. Matthew Bester
Organist	Michael Schreffler
Office Manager	Melanie Jacobs

Vestry

Senior Warden	Cheryl Boop
Junior Warden	Kevin Fix
Youth Warden	Anna Markwardt
Class of 2024	Michael Bowman Julia Johnson-Davis Roman Skoracki Jodi Hess
Class of 2025	Martha Belury Betsy Gillespie Bruce Johnson Barb Keyes
Class of 2026	Steve Brindza Brenda Hammersley Ted Meyers Andi Waller (<i>resigned 12/23</i>)
Treasurer	Phil Glandon
Clerk	Jodi Porreca

Delegates

Bishop Election – September 30, 2023
Business Session – November 11, 2023
Cheryl Boop (ex-officio, Senior Warden)
Michael Bowman
Kevin Fix (ex-officio, Junior Warden)
Dot Yeager

Trustees

Chair	Dot Yeager Elizabeth Anstaett Mark Drew (ex officio, Immediate Past Sr. Warden) Phil Glandon Jay Wilcox
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Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting
February 11, 2023

Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer & Call to Order

Introductions of Staff, Wardens, Vestry and Convention Delegates

Approval of 2023 Minutes

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

Rector's Report

Wardens' Reports

Treasurer's Report

Discussion for the Good of the Parish

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2023

The 2023 annual meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom following the 10:30 AM worship service. Vicki Zust called the meeting to order at 11:52 with an opening prayer.

Vicki introduced Staff, Vestry and Trustees. She thanked Dr. Matthew Bester (present), Melanie Jacobs and Michael Schreffler. Matt Waters is on contract part time to handle minor maintenance.

Minutes of the 2022 meeting were, upon *motion, duly seconded and passed*, approved as written.

By Laws: The proposed revisions to the bylaws, as presented in the annual report were, upon *motion, duly seconded and passed*, approved as written.

Vestry Slate

Vicki recognized and thanked retiring Vestry members, (Mark Drew - Senior Warden, Leslie Winters – Junior Warden, Lucas Skoracki – Youth Warden and Vestry members Anice Ellis, Judith Grant, Bill Mayr, and Irina Reed.) In appreciation of their service, Vicki presented each with a gift. Vicki made special mention of her appreciation for Mark Drew and Leslie Winters as their terms took them through the pandemic and the search for a new rector. Their leadership is greatly appreciated.

Barb Hyre was presented with appreciation gifts for her eighteen years of service as vestry clerk. Jody Porreca was introduced as new vestry clerk.

Vestry Nominations

The Nominating Committee was made up of retiring Vestry members and Vicki. The committee brought forth the following slate of candidates for the 2023 Vestry and Convention Delegates.

- Senior Warden – Cheryl Boop
- Junior Warden – Kevin Fix
- Youth Warden – Anna Markwardt
- Vestry Class of 2026 - Steve Brindza
- Vestry Class of 2026 - Brenda Hammersley,
- Vestry Class of 2026- Ted Meyers
- Vestry Class of 2026 - Andy Waller
- Mid Term Vacancy, Vestry Class of 2024– Michael Bowman

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

Diocesan Convention Delegates – Michael Bowman, Anice Ellis, Dot Yeager

This is a contested election. We can send four delegates. Two are the Senior and Junior Wardens. The other two are selected by vote. There are three candidates for the two delegates. Ballots were cast by those in attendance and Zoom participants voted by chat.

Dot Yeager and Michael Bowman were elected.

Convention Delegate Alternates – Judith Grant, Anise Ellis

2022 Financial Report and 2023 Budget

Phil Glandon gave a summary of his report as written in the Annual Report. He is excited about the positive direction in which the church is moving.

While some losses in pledging during the Covid pandemic occurred and there have been paper losses in investments, the church is growing in membership and pledges and the budget is close to pre-pandemic levels.

There were no surprise expenses this year.

Details can be found in the Annual Report.

Senior Warden's Report: Mark Drew

Mark highlighted some of his observations in the Annual Report.

Our positive growth is the result of energy and engagement.

The energy of St. Mark's parishioners has resulted in positive growth.

We engage people within and outside of the parish.

- First Sundays have been great within our parish.
- Committees, outreach, projects and communications get things done and engage our members.
- Virtual worship, youth events, the choir trip, scouting and support groups spread the word in the community.

Stewardship: We are blessed with great people who watch over the financial health of the parish.

Mark referenced the saying, "It takes a village", and thanked a number of people who have been helpful. He thanked Phil and Dot Yeager for their mentorship and Vicki for her support.

Mark passed "the torch," to Cheryl Boop - a password!

Junior Warden's Report: Leslie Winters

Leslie's report stands as written in the Annual Report. She thanked everyone for their support. She will give Kevin help that he may need going forward.

Rector's Report: Vicki Zust

The year has passed quickly and has been busy. We continue to learn what it is to function in a world where Covid is with us, and the adjustments this has required. Vicki highlighted several goals and the progress we as a church are making toward them.

- Events that draw us together as a congregation.
- Being a place that supports children and youth.
- Reaching out to the community, by being an active and visible presence in the community, and welcoming and including people in the St. Mark's community.

Vicki discussed steps we have taken toward the above goals, and they are outlined in the Annual Report.

None of this would be possible without the support and volunteerism of the congregation.

Winged lions were presented to seven people who are being recognized for the talents they bring and share and who are largely unsung. While there are many who could be so recognized, she chooses seven (a perfect number in Hebrew numerology). Next year, she will recognize seven more. This year's recipients are:

Lyn Glandon (counts offering, helps with directory)

Bill Karl: co-chair of outreach, NNEMAP and has wonderful ideas

Barb Keyes: Kitchen maven, gets us coffee and snacks and also helps with the flower guild

Julie Moll: works with the children

George Reed: AV producer and the Canterbury choir parent

Bill Silliman: head verger, trains and coordinates the acolyte schedule

Laura Skoracki: Children's formation team, egg workshop, positive, smiling attitude

Good of the Order;

A new Bishop is to be elected in September. We will be hearing more about that.

Dismissal

Hearing no additions for the good of the order, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 with a prayer from Vicki.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Porreca (Recorder)

2023 Parish Statistics

Membership	2023	2022	2021
Increases	25	39	7
Decreases	(5)	(4)	(3)
	20	35	4

Communicants in Good Standing

Adults (age 16 and over)	245	203	282
Youth (under age 16)	50	49	80
	295	252	362

Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance	137	106	92
Average Sunday Digital Attendance	168		
<i>Digital Attendance is the unique device views through Tuesday times 1.5</i>			
Easter Attendance	421	345	114

Number of Services

Sunday Eucharist	106	102	80
Weekday Eucharist (public)	5	7	18
Private Eucharist	6	3	3
Marriages	0	0	1
Burials	7	2	5
Baptisms	6	5	0
Confirmations/Receptions	0	7	9



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee brings forth the following slate of candidates for the 2024 Vestry and Convention Delegates.

2024 Vestry Nominees

Senior Warden 1-Year Term (1 to be elected)

Cheryl Boop

Junior Warden 1-Year Term (1 to be elected)

Kevin Fix

Youth Warden 1-Year Term (1 to be elected)

Anna Markwardt

Vestry Member 3-Year Term (4 to be elected)

Dwight Anstaett

Michael Bowman

Norman Jones

Park Zimpher

Convention Delegate 1-Year Term (2 to be elected)

Michael Bowman

Barb Keyes

Convention Alternate 1-Year Term (up to 2 to be elected)

TBD

Nominees

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

Cheryl Boop



After one year serving as senior warden, Cheryl is upbeat and enthused. “It’s going well. We have an amazing church. We have people who want to be doers – upfront doers and behind-the-scene doers. We’re able to do the things we need to do. To me this shows the grace of God.”

There have been surprises: “The biggest surprise is the (physical) church building, all the physical needs, what it takes to keep everything running.” Also, ‘regulars’ at the 8 a.m. Sunday service are becoming more active and the online streaming of church services, started in the early days of Covid,

continues to attract viewers. Saint Mark’s has become more active in the community and in turn is attracting new members.

Now the challenge is to help the new members become involved in the many activities Saint Mark’s offers; “we have to do a better job explaining what’s out there,” Cheryl said. “It’s an exciting time for us.”

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

Kevin Fix



For Kevin, 2023, his first year as junior warden, was a learning experience. “I knew coming in that the junior warden did a lot with facilities and grounds, but I did not expect to see everything from the bell tower to the roof of the education wing to the boiler rooms in the basement. I have a new appreciation for what it takes to maintain our campus.

“I’m thankful for the camaraderie and teamwork we have on vestry, and the very capable leadership of Pastor Vicki and Cheryl. A highlight for me was serving as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention, especially the election of our bishop-elect, Kristin White. It was an experience I’ll never forget

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

Anna Markwardt



“Vestry has been going really well for me,” Anna said after her first year. “I wasn’t quite sure what to expect coming in, but I’ve found the meetings have given me a deeper understanding of the workings of the church. Since I didn’t know anything about the logistics or finances of the church beforehand, this has been very interesting for me, sort of like ‘seeing backstage.’ “

“One thing that I’ve especially enjoyed is helping to start a larger social media presence for the church. I’m looking forward to running for re-election,” Anna said.

VESTRY MEMBER 3-YEAR TERM (FOUR TO BE ELECTED)



Dwight Anstaett

Dwight served on the vestry from 2015 to 2018. He joined Saint Mark's in 1987 and he and his wife, Elizabeth, were married in the church that year. He served on the rector search committee that led to the hiring of our previous rector Paul St. Germain. "I would like to serve (on vestry) again because I want to find a positive way to serve the church and get more involved with its members, its clergy and vestry leadership.

"I believe my previous experience will be invaluable. I am familiar with the important roles and responsibilities of a vestry member. If elected, I look forward to working with Reverend Zust and the other members."



Michael Bowman

Michael last year completed an unexpired term on the vestry and now is seeking election to a full term. "Serving this last year has been a great experience that has helped me to see just how varied and extensive the ministries of Saint Mark's are and the great amount of unsung work that goes into making everything run smoothly.

"Saint Mark's is such a friendly and welcoming community and I enjoy doing my part to contribute to its continued success," he said.



Norman Jones

Norman, his wife, Heidi, and their son, Riley, joined Saint Mark's in 2022 after moving here from Mansfield, where they all had been active at Grace Episcopal Church. Among other roles, Norman served on Grace's vestry and on the diocesan search committee for a new bishop for the Diocese of Ohio. "I've always found it rewarding to volunteer for such roles at church because it helps me better understand how the church works and how I can most effectively support it.

"We are thrilled to be able to claim Saint Mark's as our home parish and we expect to be here for the long haul. We also are big music fans, Heidi, Riley and I, so the music program at Saint Mark's is a treasure for us. When I was invited to consider putting my hat in the ring to serve on vestry, it was an easy decision to say yes."



Park Zimpher

Park previously served on vestry about 14 years ago. Why serve? “It’s an opportunity to contribute to our parish,” she said. “I would like to contribute to the continuation of building a strong, vibrant Saint Mark’s community.

“In my 34 years at Saint Mark’s, I have participated in many groups and activities. The most meaningful that come to mind are a long-term venture with teaching Sunday school and many years preparing and serving dinner at St. John’s Town Street. I’m currently helping Bruce Johnson in the Memorial Garden and I enjoy it very much.

“I like that Saint Mark’s is a supportive, nurturing community of fellow Christians. I have met many people at Saint Mark’s who have become very important in my life. I also look forward to being a part of a team to assist our clergy in moving our parish forward.”

CONVENTION DELEGATE 1-YEAR TERM (TWO TO BE ELECTED)



Michael Bowman

Michael was a delegate to the 2023 Diocesan Convention and participated in the election of our new bishop. “It was a fascinating look into how the diocese operates and the issues affecting it.” Because of the birth of his second daughter, he had to participate online. He said, “I would love the opportunity to attend in person this year.”



Barb Keyes

“The responsibility of a delegate is to represent people. I would be proud to represent Saint Mark’s interests at this year’s convention,” Barb said.



Rector's Report

2023 was a busy year here at Saint Mark's. There seems to be something going on nearly all the time.

Just to highlight a couple of things:

In February and March, we were able to resume some in person Lenten traditions that had been set aside during the height of the pandemic, including the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and a Wednesday night Lent program including a simple dinner, Pysanki Egg making, Compline and a book study. This culminated in a wonderful and joyous Easter celebration.

In May we hosted the first Culture & Artisans Fair on our Tremont lawn. We partnered with CRIS and hosted refugees and asylum seekers as they sold their works. We had a beautiful day for our first try at this event. Hundreds of people came to shop, spend time and eat. All of the artisans made hundreds of dollars. The event went so well that the City of Upper Arlington has asked that our second Cultural & Artisans Fair be on the Community Relations Committee's calendar of Welcome Events and is partnering with us to make it an even better event this year.

The Canterbury Choir led a wonderful Evensong to wrap up their season in the spring and the Saint Mark's Choir led beautiful Evensongs in the spring and for All Saints' Day. Both choirs also led the magnificent Lessons & Carols service in December.

We sponsored UA Pride for the second year in a row and, in spite of steady rain, there was a good turnout of people celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

We gathered on the lawn for fireworks viewing on the 4th of July and had a good time talking and eating and watching a great fireworks display from an almost perfect location. We just haven't been able to convince the library to cut down one tree that blocks some of our view 😊.

On Labor Day we had our annual Bake Sale to go along with the Arts Festival. We allowed the City to use our front lawn for the bike valet stand, and we think it drew a few more people to sample our wares. We made over \$1300 for the Mid Ohio Food Collective.

The year ended with a wonderful Christmas pageant service on Christmas Eve and an equally wonderful late service.

These are only a few of the things that have been going on at Saint Mark's this year. It has seemed to me that we are busy and engaged nearly all the time.

I want to highlight three things that, I think, paint the picture of where Saint Mark's is as we head into 2024:

The first is about people. Our Average Sunday Attendance for 2022 was 137 people. This is the number of people who are physically present in the building for Sunday worship. Our pre-

pandemic Average Sunday Attendance was 140, so we are back to our pre-pandemic in-person attendance. In addition to that, we now have a digital congregation. These are the people who worship via our livestream either live or sometime between Sunday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon. The Average Livestream attendance for 2022 was 168. This means that we actually have more people worshipping with us digitally than in-person.

How we reach out to and connect with the digital congregation is something that we will need to work on intentionally this year. I will be doing some research at the Fred Rogers Institute in Latrobe, Pennsylvania this year to explore how to build meaningful connections with our digital congregation.

The second is about money. At last year's Annual Meeting, the vestry presented at budget with a \$58,000 deficit. We did this intentionally because it allowed us to continue our staffing and programming at a level that we hoped would lead to continued growth. Not only did we not have a deficit at the end of the year, we actually were nearly \$40,000 in the black. This shows both growth in membership and giving through the year, but also the generosity of the Saint Mark's community. Thank you all so much.

We are presenting a budget that shows a deficit again this year. The vestry believes that we need to continue to staff and program for growth. We do have resources that will allow us to make up those funds if necessary.

The third is about community engagement: When the vestry called me to be your rector in the fall of 2021 one of the things that they asked was to help Saint Mark's reconnect with our surrounding community. We have all worked hard on this in the last two years. We are now seen as important partners for the City of Upper Arlington, the UA Schools, Rainbow UA, Equal UA as well as CRIS. This is in addition to our longstanding partnerships with NNEMAP and St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklinton. Our participation is solicited by all of those organizations. We are building a deeper relationship with both Tremont Elementary and the UA Public Library.

All three of these things: People, Money and Community Engagement, tell the story of a congregation that is growing both in numbers and in depth. This is very good news.

Which brings me to our challenges.

Our challenges also fall into three areas:

The first is the area of engagement and connection. We have a lot of people who are new to the Saint Mark's community. We need to be intentional about developing ways not only to welcome new people, but to help them find ways to engage with the life of the congregation and to get to know and connect with people. This is how we build a community. It is important, and it doesn't just happen, we need to pay attention to building structures and activities that allow it to happen.

The second is money. We are a growing congregation, which is wonderful. It also means that we need just a little more money each year than we are sure that we have. It also means that we often default to doing things in a way that takes more time or more volunteer work than it might if we were able to simply hire. It also means that we are always keeping an eye on our spending.

The third is our building. There is a great deal of deferred maintenance that needs to be done. Our iconic Bell Tower is in need of extensive repair. Every HVAC system in the main building is at or beyond its expected life span. The kitchen cabinets are also reaching the end of their life span and the stove is as well. In addition to this there are roofing, drainage, plumbing and electrical issues that need to be addressed. Many of these things are not noticeable when you come to worship, but that doesn't mean that they don't need to be addressed.

Expect to be hearing more about these issues during 2024.

One last thing to celebrate. The Diocese of Southern Ohio has elected Kristin Uffelman White as our next Bishop. She will be ordained and consecrated next Saturday at the Columbus Convention Center. We expect that Bishop White will make her first visit to Saint Mark's sometime in 2024.



I can't end this report with thanking the staff of Saint Mark's: Melanie Jacobs, Matthew Bester and Michael Scheffler for all that they do to make Saint Mark's the wonderful community that it is. I also want to thank all of you for your presence, your gifts of your time and talent and treasure, your willingness to try new things, and show up for all of the things that are going on. Saint Mark's is who we are because of each and every one of you.

Senior Warden's Report

This year has been a year of growth – for me personally as I stepped into the role of Senior Warden, and for the church as a whole as we welcome new parishioners, new ways of worshiping, new styles of communing with one another, and a new Bishop to our Diocese! It has been such a pleasure to work with our Vestry over the past year – we have an outstanding group helping to guide the church along its mission to worship together, serve our neighbors, engage in fellowship and hospitality, encourage people in their lifelong spiritual formation, and to be a beacon of Christ's presence in the world. We take our job of serving on vestry seriously – but find joy and laughter in the company of one another.

2023 found Saint Mark's trying novel ways to serve our neighbors and engage our congregation while expanding our footprint in the community. We saw the Cultural Artisan's Fair come to fruition and surpass all our expectations. The Evening Knitting Group is a nice companion to our Knitting and Stitching Group, allowing those people who cannot come during daytime hours the opportunity to knit/stitch and find fellowship with one another. Offering our open doors and clean bathrooms during the Wednesday Farmer's Market allowed us to become more involved in the community. Our Fireworks on the 4th continues to grow and the use of our lawn on the Tremont side of the church has been helpful in letting the UA community see how vital we are. The Regional Vestry Day is something Bishop-Elect White called out in her meeting with the lay leaders as a model way of working together to knit our parishes closer together, working toward a common purpose and exchange ideas. Our church campus lends itself nicely to being used for hosting events – not only church-related, but also community events, like the Early Music in Columbus groups, Lancaster Chorale, Harmony for Hunger, and Fior Angelica. Groups like COHHIO, AARP tax preparation, AA, Al-Anon, the Boy Scouts, and the Columbus Clergy Bible Study Group appreciate our space as well.

We have also expanded our ways of engaging our congregation and community socially – movie nights, Wednesday night suppers, eating our way through Asia without leaving Columbus. Our Supper Group is such a fun way to meet others and the hosts have been very creative in their monthly themes – expanding our knowledge of each other as well as our food and beverage knowledge (and maybe our waistlines as well!).

We have seen so many new people find community in our church – the 8am service continues to grow in numbers of people attending, but also in numbers of people taking an active role in church life. New families find our nursery and our Children's Formation programs just what they have been seeking. Our Canterbury Choir and Adult Choir have both grown this year as well – contributing to the beauty of our services and allowing us to expand our musical repertoire. Coffee Hour has turned into coffee hour-and-a-half – with many parishioners taking extra time to sit at tables and get to know one another.

It is beautiful and wonderful – and an awesome responsibility to encourage growth while attempting to maintain the coziness, safety, and personalized community we all have grown to expect from Saint Mark's.

As Phil's Treasurer's Report will show, we are blessed in so many ways, not only with the time and talent this congregation puts into the church, but also with the monies that are needed to

allow us to do all the great things this congregation has stated is important to Saint Mark's. It is wonderful to know that we can maintain our facilities, grow in our Outreach and Formation programs, expand our presence in the community, and be the church home that so many of us need.

I look forward to continuing in my role as Senior Warden as we look forward to working with Bishop-Elect White.



Junior Warden's Report

It has been a pleasure to serve in the position of Junior Warden this past year. I can't think of a better way to get acquainted with the inner workings of the parish. There were many learnings for me throughout the year, but what struck me the most was how important our facilities are, not just for our own worship and fellowship, but for all the community organizations we host as well. Take a look at our parish calendar and you will be hard-pressed to find a single day when our buildings are not in use.

Maintaining our campus requires significant funds and countless volunteer hours. I'd like to thank the members of our Facilities & Grounds Committee for helping Vestry inventory and prioritize the many projects that need to be done. I would also like to acknowledge and thank those parishioners who volunteer significant time behind the scenes to make our campus a welcoming place. This includes everything from network & a/v to climate control to landscaping to maintaining the Memorial Garden, not to mention the routine maintenance issues that come up, well, routinely. There are so many examples it is impossible to list them all, but this generous giving of time saves many dollars in our budget.

Highlights of facilities and grounds activity over the past year include the following:

- We received a \$10,000 environmental efficiency grant from the Diocese, which was used to improve insulation in the education rooms, choir room and youth lounge. While this should make those rooms more comfortable in cold weather and hopefully provide some energy savings, unfortunately it also means the choir can no longer use their back closet as a refrigerator.
- We completed two parish workdays in March and September to do some deeper cleaning and take care of some minor maintenance issues. Many thanks to all who participated, particularly those who kept working even after the initial list was completed.
- Lighting in the Canterbury Center was upgraded significantly, thanks primarily to the efforts of Larry Anderson and Roman Skoracki.
- Work was done to significantly prune the larger trees on campus, and to remove some plantings that were not in good condition. This should enhance the health and longevity of our trees and reduce the amount of roof and HVAC cleanup that needs to be done in the fall.
- Vestry appointed an ad hoc committee to consider emergency preparedness for the parish and develop policies to address unforeseen events, such as fire, weather events, medical emergencies, etc. Work will continue to finalize and communicate these policies in 2024.
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, through a program offered by the Diocese, we received a comprehensive assessment of our facilities and grounds from Smart Church Solutions, an organization that assists churches, schools and other ministries with the management and stewardship of their facilities. In addition to identifying opportunities for increased efficiency, the report highlighted several significant maintenance issues that need to be addressed in the next five years. These include repairs to the bell tower, upgrading and rationalizing our HVAC systems, and extensive roof repairs or replacements. These issues will be an area of focus for the Facilities & Grounds Committee and for Vestry going forward.

My report would be incomplete without mentioning this year's Diocesan Convention, particularly the election of Bishop-Elect Kristin White in September. For me, this was a wonderfully faith-affirming experience, and one that gave me a little more insight into how we all fit together in the Body of Christ. I join many others in excitement for what lies ahead, and in gratitude for the steady guidance and abundant grace provided by Bishop-Provisional Wayne Smith.

Lastly, I look forward to serving again as Junior Warden in the coming year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my Vestry colleagues this past year, and I want to thank Vicki and Cheryl for fostering an environment of collaboration, faith and purpose to guide us in our work.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Fix, Junior Warden



Treasurer's Report

Review of 2023 Financial Results

Our parish was blessed with an exceptional year in 2023. Pledged revenue, unpledged donations, and investment earnings were each much better than anticipated. As a result, total revenue was \$144,493 over our expectation. Unusual items included in revenue were: much better than expected market appreciation of our endowment fund and other investments, a \$10,000 grant from the diocese to insulate the exterior walls in the education wing, and the recognition of \$15,000 of deferred giving from a deceased member. In addition, we received a few large, unexpected gifts. Expenses ended up \$31,838 below budget, due in a large part to much lower facilities repair expenses than in the past few years. Our net income went from a budgeted loss of \$58,070 to an actual gain of \$118,261! Thanks be to God!

2024 Operating Budget

General: We have good reason to be optimistic about 2024. Our pledge campaign resulted in 19 new pledges and a total increase of 12% or \$50,824. That is the largest increase in a very long time. We are continuing to be cautious about forecasting our revenue and conservative in projecting our expenses, so after considerable deliberation the Vestry approved a deficit budget of \$(34,000) for 2024. We have accumulated surplus to cover that loss.

Staff and Payroll Expenses: We have raised salaries for our four employees by 3% in 2024. Healthcare insurance increased by 6% and we added \$4,665 for some part-time bookkeeping help and a formation assistant.

Administration: Increases in audit fees, insurance, postage, and communications account for an estimated \$4,800 increase in Administrative Expense in 2023

Facilities: We are expecting facilities repairs to be more in-line with prior years. The UA aggregation of electricity service should benefit our utility expenses.

Outreach: We are continuing to raise our funding for outreach and felt a 25% increase was appropriate this year.

Mission Share: Our rate was increased by the Diocese from 12.42% to 13.15% for 2024 and that rate will be applied to higher expenses. We expect an increase of about \$13,000.

Other Expenses: The remaining expense categories are budgeted in aggregate roughly at 2023 levels.

Concluding Thoughts

The Vestry worked very hard developing the budget. Vicki, the Wardens, the Vestry and I are all focused on being good stewards of the gifts we receive and are confident that the Holy Spirit is watching over us as we seek to do God's work through this wonderful parish that we are blessed to be a part of!

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Glandon

Treasurer

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
2023 Statement of Activity & 2024 Budget

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Revenues			
Member Contributions - pledged	\$ 430,000	\$ 457,294	\$ 472,000
Plate & non-pledge receipts	70,000	111,790	75,000
Earnings from Investments	15,000	79,493	27,000
Rental Income	18,000	19,636	18,000
Other Income	2,500	11,780	2,000
Total Revenue	\$ 535,500	\$ 679,993	\$ 594,000
Expenses			
Staff & Payroll Expenses	\$ 297,002	\$ 293,558	\$ 312,475
Administration	62,994	63,217	68,015
Facilities	131,444	111,605	132,900
Outreach	12,000	12,000	15,000
Diocesan Mission Share	72,000	69,000	82,000
Christian Formation	5,750	3,901	5,450
Fellowship & Hospitality	2,650	2,544	3,050
Member Care	600	(50)	-
Music	3,660	3,530	4,210
Stewardship	250	234	-
Worship	5,220	2,192	4,900
Total Disbursements	\$ 593,570	\$ 561,732	\$ 628,000
Net income (deficit)	\$ (58,070)	\$ 118,261	\$ (34,000)

2024 Pledges Compared to 2023

	2024 Pledges	2023 Pledges	Change
Increases (45)	\$ 291,552	\$ 249,698	\$ 41,854
New (19)	36,100	-	36,100
Same as 2023 (35)	124,980	124,980	-
Decreases (9)	22,140	36,640	(14,500)
Subtotal - Received (108)	\$ 474,772	\$ 411,318	\$ 63,454
Moved, deceased or no response (10)	-	12,630	(12,630)
Total (118)	\$ 474,772	\$ 423,948	\$ 50,824
+12%			

Endowment Trustees Report

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund during 2023 were: Dot Yeager (chair), Phil Glandon (treasurer), Elizabeth Anstaett, Kevin Fix and Jay Wilcox.

The Trustees met twice during the year, in April and December, to review the Endowment Fund investments, which are held at The Columbus Foundation.

At December 31, 2023, the total principal and income balance of the Endowment Fund invested in the account at The Columbus Foundation was \$339,656.04, compared to \$310,361.36 at December 31, 2022. During 2023, investment income was \$8,530 and realized and unrealized gains were \$34,972. These gains partially offset the losses of \$62,737 in 2022. In 2023, fees and expenses totaled \$1,259.10. Two distributions were made from the Endowment fund to the Parish operating fund during 2023 totaling \$14,924.

At the national church convention in July 2022, two resolutions around Faithful and Ethical Investing were passed, to encourage the larger church to live into those ideals. A report of the Theology of Money Task Force can be found here: https://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/gc_reports/reports/2022/bb_2022-R044.pdf

The national church has long been a pioneer in efforts to “do justice” by using the church’s investments for social change since the 1970’s. An Episcopal News Service article provides good background on those efforts over the years and is found at this link: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/10/18/executive-council-learns-about-moral-legal-responsibilities-as-managers-of-church-finances/>

The Trustees continue to discuss how the Endowment Fund might apply these concepts. Given the volatility in the stock and bond markets generally in the past several years, a cautious approach is being taken to changing the asset mix to avoid adverse impact on the principal and income balance.

Thanks to each of the Trustees for their service this past year and especially to Phil Glandon, who is in his second term and concludes ten years of excellent service on behalf of the Trustees and as its Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dot Yeager, Endowment Trustees Chair



Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Endowment Fund Financial Statement
For the Period Ended December 31, 2023

Fund balance 12/31/2022	\$ 310,361.36
<u>2023 Activity:</u>	
Realized/unrealized gains	34,971.50
Income distributed to parish operations	(14,924.00)
Investment income	8,529.50
Capital gains	1,976.78
Administration & Investment Fees	<u>(1,259.10)</u>
Fund Balance 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 339,656.04</u>

Music

It has been another great year for the music program at Saint Mark's, filled with outstanding liturgy and music as well as exciting growth in our ensembles. Both choirs were pleased to welcome numerous new members in the past year.

The Saint Mark's Choir had an excellent year. In addition to the usual Sunday morning services, the choir led numerous special services throughout 2023. In March, the choir led a beautiful service of Choral Evensong, with music by Johannes Brahms, William Byrd, Morten Lauridsen, and Bernard Rose. The choir provided music for the full complement of Holy Week services, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. Highlights included Zoltan Kodály's *Pange lingua*, Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*, and Carsen Cooman's thrilling *Easter Day*. In June, the choir closed out the 2022–2023 program year with a service of Choral Matins, with thrilling music by Charles Villiers Stanford, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, and Thomas Tallis.

In the fall, the Saint Mark's Choir led a service of Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday, with music by Jaime Hitel, Richard Lloyd, Felix Mendelssohn, and Tomás Luis de Victoria. Several weeks later, the choir led a service of Choral Eucharist, featuring the Communion Service in E by Harold Darke. In December the choir joined forces with the Canterbury Choir for our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. A particular highlight of that service was the world premiere of a newly composed anthem by the Canadian composer Sarah MacDonald, commissioned in memory of the late Barbara Mayr. I hope that this will be the start of a regular tradition of commissions for our service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The fall season culminated in late December with a glorious service for Christmas Eve, with music by Eleanor Daley, Cecilia McDowall, Robert Pearsall, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, and Tomás Luis de Victoria.

The Canterbury Choir also enjoyed a superb year. Our dedicated young choristers continued their routine of supplying beautiful and challenging music for the first Sunday morning of every month. They also provided music for Easter Sunday, our Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, and our beloved Pageant service on Christmas Eve. In May, the choir sang a lovely service of Choral Evensong to conclude their 2022–2023 season, with music by Edward Bairstow, George Dyson, and Robert Powell. The choir is blessed by the outstanding peer leadership of our Head Choristers Charlotte Davis and Alex Reed as well as Head Chorister Emerita Elisa Bester.

Saint Mark's also hosted some memorable special music events that did not include the choirs. The year began with our annual Taizé service in early January, which was as beautiful and contemplative as ever. In March, we hosted a concert by LancasterChorale, which featured the premiere of a major work by Artistic Director Stephen Caracciolo. In April, our organist Michael Schreffler performed an inspired solo recital, with music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard K. Fitzgerald, Leo Sowerby, and Louis Vierne, among others. In November, Saint Mark's hosted a sold-out concert by Early Music in Columbus, welcoming many newcomers to our space. Finally, Saint Mark's was pleased to host the annual Harmony for Hunger concert in benefit of NNEMAP in late November, drawing a capacity crowd for a varied program that featured Michael Schreffler as organ soloist.

The excellence of the music program would not be possible without our superlative staff and volunteers, whose dedication is inspiring. I am particularly grateful to Michael and to our four paid staff singers (Steve Barker, Heather Chute, Jacob Conrad, and Margaret Wells) for their artistry and leadership. We look forward to an exciting 2024!

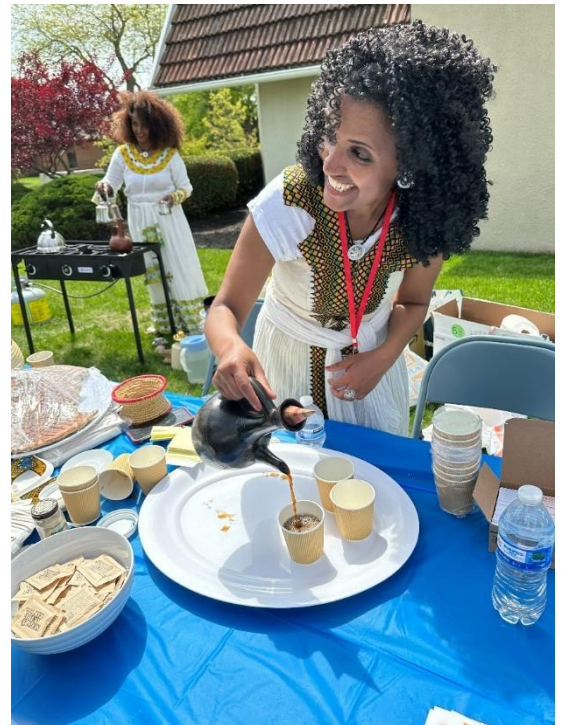
Adult Formation

Adult Formation meets on Sunday mornings (other than the first Sunday of the month) from 9:30 to 10:15 during the academic year.

We explore a wide variety of topics, from Church History to Theology to looking at particular Biblical themes. Many of these sessions are livestreamed and recordings are available for view on the Adult Formation page of Saint Mark's website.

We tried something new this year. Dan Morton, Pastor Vicki, Judith Grant, Norman Jones, Michael Bowman and Cheryl Boop recorded a four-session podcast on the Epistle to the Philippians. You can listen to the podcast on the Adult Formation page of the website. If the first podcast is well received, we may do another.

We also did a book discussion in Lent, Quiet Mornings in Lent and Advent and have put out a series of resources for home use. You can find these resources on the Faith at Home page of the website.



Youth Formation

Youth group is for any youth in grades 6 through 12.

The youth group meets the first Sunday of the month after the 10:30 a.m. service. We have lunch and then do some activity together.

We have gone to Top Golf and the Columbus Zoo, played hide and go seek, had conversations about spiritual topics and worked wrote a Eucharistic Prayer that was used at Saint Mark's on the First Sunday of May.

We joined with other Episcopal churches in the Columbus area to do a Mission Day Camp this June. Each Wednesday we gathered to do a different service project. We worked at Procter Camp and Conference Center, Cat Welfare and helped Upper Arlington seniors with yard work.

The youth are going on pilgrimage to Hawaii in June. We will be raising some money to help with the costs of this.

Saint Mark's youth are involved in many ways in the life of the congregation. They acolyte, sing in the Canterbury and Saint Mark's choirs, help in the nursery and with the children's formation programs. Youth also help with the live stream and we have a youth verger.

Saint Mark's youth are also involved in many ways in their schools and communities. We have youth you act in their school's theater programs. We have youth who run cross country, play softball, baseball and soccer, row on crew teams, play in the marching band and orchestra, play the piano, dance and sing. We have youth involved in scouts and in other school activities. Pastor Vicki tries to get to as many of the youth's activities as she can and Saint Mark's takes out ads in playbills and programs and sponsors their activities in other ways.



Children's Formation

Children's Formation is designed for children in preschool through fifth grade and includes programming on Sunday mornings during the first half of the 10:30 worship service from September through May as well as Saint Mark's beloved Annual Christmas Pageant. Formation leaders include Joanne Drew and Laura Skoracki with guidance from Pastor Vicki. Michael Bowen serves as vestry liaison. Our volunteers are an invaluable resource and include Irina Reed who is a substitute Godly Play Storyteller, Catherine Davis as Formation Assistant, and an as-needed rotation of Youth Assistants including Charlotte Davis and Matilda Drew. Children's Formation has a page on the website at [www. saintmarkscolumbus.org/children-and-youth-formation](http://www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/children-and-youth-formation) and leaders can be reached at their respective personal email addresses listed in the parish directory or at ChildrensFormation@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Children's Formation takes place during the first half of the Sunday worship service from 10:30 to approximately 11:05 a.m. Children join their families in the sanctuary at the sign of the peace to participate fully in the Eucharist. Children's Formation classes, children are grouped into age-appropriate sessions:

Godly Play: Children aged 3-5 years attend

Godly Play led by Laura Skoracki with assistance from Catherine Davis. Godly Play is an intentional and highly structured program that 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. We began the 2023/24 program year with stories of creation, Noah, and Moses and have worked our way through the Ark and the Tent.



Children's Chapel: Children in first through fifth grades are led by Joanne Drew with as-needed assistance from Charlotte Davis and Matilda Drew. In winter 2023 we focused on lesser-known stories of the bible including Abraham, Gideon, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abegnego. In Spring 2023 we discussed Jesus and his twelve first friends in a series of lessons we call The Apostles Creed Project, and we finished out the program year with Rogation Days-themed activities that included making sunflower seed pods, which we planted in the Butterfly Garden on Pentecost Sunday. In Fall 2023, lessons included The Role of a Bishop, The Communion of Saints, Leaders and Followers in the Bible, and we finished the year discussing Themes of Advent. These lesson plans and corresponding activity packets are created by Joanne Drew and are available on the website for use at home.

Participation During Worship

Children's Formation does not gather on the first Sundays of the month. This is to allow children to experience or directly participate in the 10:30 a.m. worship service in its entirety. Parishioners of all ages particularly enjoy Pastor Vicki's occasional First Sunday Brown Bag Sermons, in which she asks children to bring an item from home to place inside a brown bag. Each item is used as a part of an improvised sermon.

In addition to being present in the sanctuary on first Sundays, children gather near the font to attend all baptisms to get a "front row seat" and, during the four Sundays in Advent, participate at the beginning of each service in a procession and lighting of the Advent Wreath.

Holiday & Special Events

Holiday and special events are popular and well attended. Events in 2023 again included the Easter Egg Hunt (with 500 hidden eggs!), Halloween Pumpkin Carving, as well as activities during the Fall Festival. In addition to these, Children's Formation held a special Mardi Gras celebration in February and a Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration at the end of October.

Christmas Pageant: One of the highlights of the church year for those of us who volunteer in Children's ministry is the Christmas Pageant. The 2023 pageant was an especial delight with 36 children participating, including 14 who sang in the Canterbury Choir. We have a wonderful team of amazing volunteers who work with the Formation Leaders to make the pageant possible. A very special thank you to this year's volunteers, including Ellen Berndt, Cheryl Boop, Julia Johnson Davis, Betsy Gillespie, and Irina Reed.



We would like to thank the children of Saint Mark's for all the wonderful ways they participate in the life of the parish as well as their parents and grandparents who share their children with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Drew, Children's Formation Co-Leader

Laura Skoracki, Children's Formation Co-Leader

Outreach Ministry

Program Highlights:

For the first time, the Migration Ministry sponsored a Culture and Artisans Fair. It was a huge success, bringing over 600 visitors to the lawns of Saint Marks on a Saturday in May. There were over 20 vendors from 9 countries selling goods and showcasing crafts, with the proceeds of \$8500 worth of sales going directly to the vendors. The goals of educating the public about different cultures and making refugees to our community feel welcome were met.

The Outreach Ministry applied for several funding grants to increase the programming that could be carried out. The first, a grant from Episcopal Community Ministries for \$3500 allowed Outreach to expand the diapers and spices program for the NNEMAP Food Pantry increasing Saint Marks donation of diapers and spice kits from \$6000 to \$10,000 over the course of the year. The second grant for \$1000 from the Upper Arlington Community Relations Committee, funded a portion of the expenses for the International Culture and Artisans Fair.

One hundred twenty filled book bags were donated to the children of Vinton County. Hundreds of Christmas gifts were provided to the children of NNEMAP clients. Along with layettes, grooming and sanitary supply kits were donated to the mothers of Vinton County through our partners at Help Me Grow. Gift cards were donated for homeless teens visiting Star House. A baby shower was held for Help Me Grow providing clothing, blankets, books and all the things new mothers need. First aid kits were assembled and donated to NNEMAP.

The women of Saint Marks knitted toys, hats, and booties for babies in need. Additionally, blankets, bibs and burp cloths were sewn. Pouches for sanitary products were sewn and filled for Appalachian women in need.

The hungry were fed at Street Church on five 5th Sundays. Lunches were provided to Habitat for Humanity.

Last, but not least, the Outreach Committee was challenged to change its structure to promote growth and encourage increased participation in projects. Over the course of the summer, the committee decided to move to a structure with a small administrative committee to coordinate budgets, communications and calendars, and specific project leaders with increased autonomy and recruiting responsibility for projects. Included in the project leaders was a position responsible for encouraging and evaluating new projects. The entire outreach team will continue to come together several times a year. The first Outreach Summit brought about 40 people together this past January. The next summit will be March.

Income and Expenditures

Cash donations were made to partner agencies to help them fulfill their missions as the know best, with checks totaling \$ 11,750:

\$2000 for NNEMAP (food pantry)

\$2000 for Families Flourish, (housing and mentoring to empower and raise family resources) \$1000 for CRIS (refugee support),

\$2500 for Start House (homeless teen support),

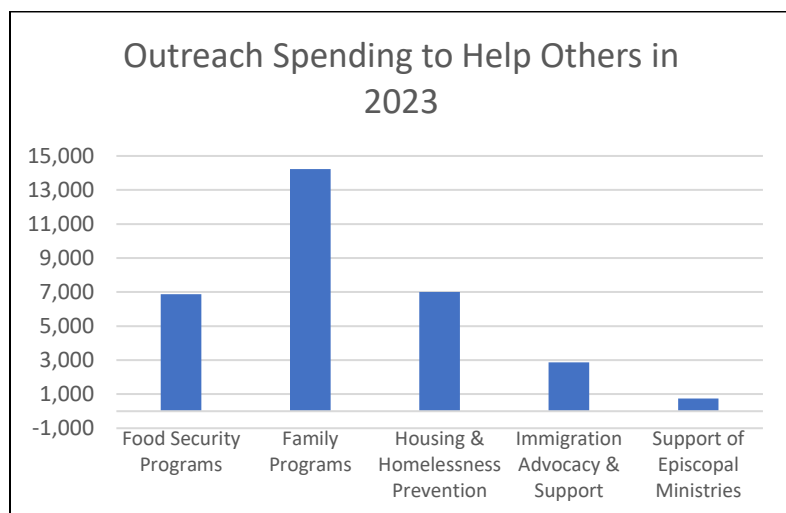
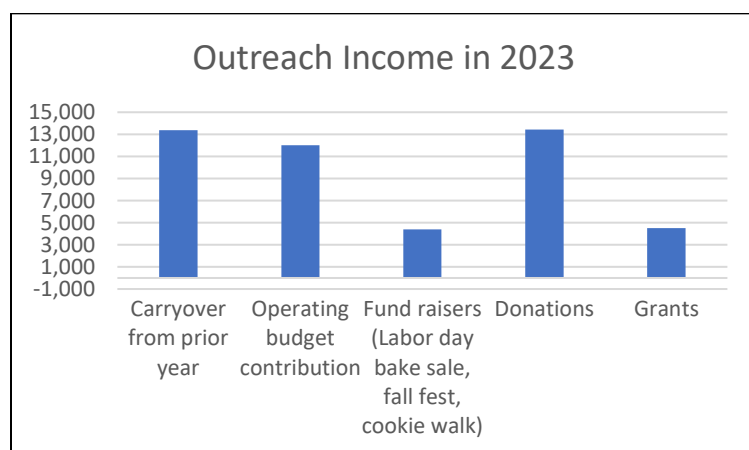
\$1500 for Open Shelter (homeless shelter),

\$ 1000 for Habitat (improving housing with new homes),

\$750 for Episcopal Relief and Development (disaster response worldwide)

\$2000 Freedom a la Carte (supporting human trafficking victims engaged in CATCH Court)

An additional year end donation of approximately \$1000 was designated for NNEMAP from the Cookie Walk. In addition, there were two one-time contributions to groups with whom we normally don't partner on projects. The \$1800 raised from the Bake Sale was sent to the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. A check for \$1000 was sent to the Hilliard Food Pantry following their near total loss of their pantry due to a fire.



The diaper program for NNEMAP is under the family programs category.

Communications

Communications efforts come in many forms at Saint Mark's and serve not only to keep parishioners informed of parish news and announcements, but also to share the story of Saint Mark's with the community. The Communications Team consists primarily of Pastor Vicki, Joanne Drew, Bill Mayr, Brenda Hammersley, and Office Manager Melanie Jacobs along with vital contributions from many members of the congregation.

Below is a list of various channels of Saint Mark's communication:

Print Material

- Order of Service for worship services
- The Epistle monthly newsletter
- Parish Annual Report
- Faith at Home – These seasonal educational and activity booklets are available in the arched bookcase located in the parish hall for use at home.
- Yard Signage – Yard signs of various sizes are strategically placed on the heavily trafficked intersection of Dorset and Tremont to advertise special services and events to draw community members who might otherwise not attend.
- Advertisements in Youth Sponsored Events – Saint Mark's supports our youth who participate in community, academic, and sporting events with the purchase of ad space. Recent examples have included high school sporting event signage and theatrical production Playbills.

Electronic Communications

- Website— As planned, Saint Mark's website was successfully migrated to the new diocesan server in Spring 2023. This gives us increased encryption and security. We now are refining elements of the site to give it a fresh, new look.
- Constant Contact E-news:
 - This Week at Saint Mark's – This compact online newsletter includes general information and announcements of activities for the week ahead. It also often includes items in advance of that to allow parishioners time to mark it on their calendars. This newsletter is especially useful as it includes a list of people scheduled to serve in various roles for Sunday worship. It is sent to subscribers' email boxes at 2 p.m. on Fridays and is posted to Saint Mark's Facebook page and the front page of Saint Mark's website.
 - Sunday Reminders – These include announcements culled from the Constant Contact E-news that are relevant only to that day. It includes a list of those serving in the worship service, and it is sent to email subscribers on Sunday mornings at 7 a.m.
 - Pastoral Notes – Notices of special concern, such as the death of a parishioner; sent to subscribers' email boxes as the occasion arises. These also are published in the monthly Epistle.
 - Friends of Music occasional updates about music programs at Saint Mark's.

Social Media

- Saint Mark's posts material as appropriate to YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

Livestream

- Worship Services, Special Music Events, Weddings/Memorial Services, Meetings and Adult Formation Classes are broadcast live on our website. Worship services also are broadcast on Facebook. In addition, these recorded events are available on demand on our website.

Saint Mark's continues to explore other means of communicating, such as the recent four podcasts in which a group of parishioners and Pastor Vicki discussed the book of Philippians. The podcasts are available on the Adult Formation section of the website.

Many people submit information or photos, and we are grateful. We welcome additional volunteers to help the Communications Team. If you wish to volunteer or submit material, contact us at communications@saintmarkscolumbus.org or contact Pastor Vicki.

