

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

the EPISTLE

A Monthly Newsletter of Saint Mark's, Columbus

February 2025 • Issue 309

...To Generation

*Be a part of the
future*



**Annual Meeting
February 9**



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

The Epistle is the monthly newsletter of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. The deadline for submissions is the fifteenth day of the preceding month. Send photos, announcements, or story ideas for inclusion in the Epistle to: communications@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Cover Photo: Courtesy of Saint Mark's Archives

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's will be Sunday Feb. 9 after the 10:30 a.m. service.

The meeting will be hybrid. You may join in person or you will be able to zoom in. Make sure you are getting the This Week e-news, that is where we will put the zoom link.

The annual meeting will feature reports on what happened in 2024, some previews of things coming up in 2025, discussion of the budget and elections for leadership.

We will be electing:

4 vestry members for 3-year terms

1 vestry member for a 1-year term

1 Senior Warden for a 1-year term

1 Junior Warden for a 1-year term

1 Youth warden for a 1-year term.

2 Delegates to Diocesan Convention (the Senior & Junior Wardens also serve as Convention Delegates).

The Annual Meeting is always interesting and occasionally funny. We will be providing Canterbury Choir subs to nibble on during the meeting and promise to get you home in plenty of time for your Super Bowl party.



CANDIDATES

We asked our youth warden candidate and candidates for vestry and Convention delegate, the following questions:

- 1. How did you become a part of the Saint Mark's community?*
- 2. What are you most excited about for Saint Mark's in the next few years?*

Senior Warden—elect I for a one-year term



Cheryl Boop—running for re-election for her third one-year term. This is the last year Cheryl is eligible to run for senior warden.

Junior Warden—elect I for a one-year term

Kevin Fix—running for re-election for his third one-year term. This is the last year Kevin is eligible to run for junior warden.



Youth Warden—elect I for a one-year term

Alex Reed

I became a member of Saint Mark's community when I was very young, and even got baptized there. Since then, I have been consistently going, other than baseball season, when there are a lot of games on Sunday mornings.

I am most excited to help grow the church and help out to the best of my abilities. I am happy to have been able to do all the other things I have around the church, and I see this as another way to make an impact and help out.



CANDIDATES

Vestry

Elect 4 for three -year terms. Elect 1 for a one-year term



Bill Lange

Actually, my wife (Sarah) and I became part of Saint Mark's community more than 35 years ago! We were invited by Gary Garber and Michael Murray to perform in the summers when the choir was on break. Then, a little more than two years ago, we found ourselves looking for a church home and reached out to Matt Bester. He invited us to join Saint Mark's choir, we did, and as they say, "the rest is history"! We soon joined the church and have been involved ever since!

There's excitement all around at Saint Mark's! In particular I'm excited about the growth of programs within the church, our community involvement and the potential for the church to embark upon a capital campaign. St. Mark's possesses all the right elements to develop an inspiring future!

Melanie Tepeley

The Episcopal church was part of my upbringing. Switched to Roman Catholicism due to my husband's preference. During COVID shut down, I discovered how harmful it was to me to be disconnected from my community. So, when able I "knocked" on Saint Mark's door, to feed my hunger for connectedness to my community. First visit and thereafter, parishioners greeted and encouraged me to become engaged in worship and service to others. Thankful for my new church family.

My passion is outreach programs and how Saint Marks can make a difference in our community. Plus, I am excited to learn about the Saint Marks vestry and how I can serve in that capacity.



Mary Beth Smith

I've known Martha Belury since our now-grown children were little ones. We've spent many years with a gaggle of young ones trick-or-treating, walking to Tremont Pool, or at the many parties on the street. We've also been in a book club together and share many progressive causes. I've known that Martha is a woman of faith, and she's spoken fondly about Saint Mark's. I've also been committed to my Christian faith, but didn't feel that I belonged in my current church. When I decided to make the move, Saint Mark's was my first choice. Martha did not steer me wrong! I feel at home again.



Saint Mark's is a welcoming, active community. We are in challenging times. I'm excited that we can share the love of the Gospel to people who are lost, lonely, disillusioned. And share the joy too! Saint Mark's strength comes from

our joy.

CANDIDATES



Dan Verrilli

I was fortunate enough to tag along with John back in the fall of '22. It had been quite a while since I'd attended a church service, but I was pleasantly surprised by how I felt walking out of the sanctuary that day. The choir and organ were my key take aways, and the people at Saint Mark's have kept me coming back.

I'd love to see how we can continue growing by bringing folks back to church who might've been pushed away at some point in their lives. I wasn't familiar with the Episcopal Church before attending Saint Mark's, and now that I know how welcoming our congregation is, specifically to others in the LGBTQIA+ community, I want us to do everything we can to show the people of Columbus we'd be happy to see them walk through our doors, just as they are.

John Wilson

I've always been heavily involved in church, even pastoring in an evangelical church for a few years. But when I moved to Columbus in 2022, I knew I wanted to join an Episcopal church because of their inclusion of women and the LGBTQ+ community. I attended Saint Mark's the first Sunday I was in town and have been coming ever since.

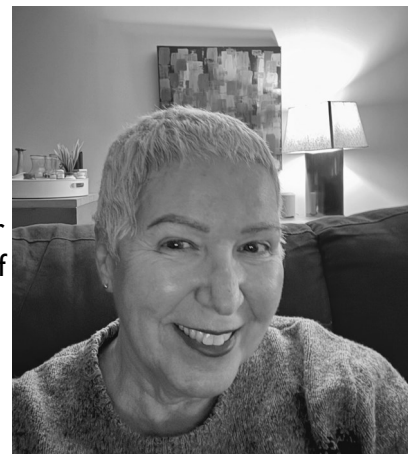
I am excited to see the church continue to grow and welcome new families. I believe Saint Mark's offers a better, refreshing way to figure out what it means to follow Christ, and I want to see us share that with our community.



Convention Delegates—Elect two for one-year terms

Judith Grant

I became a member of St. Mark's about 2018 when I moved from Athens, OH to Columbus. I am a retired professor of political science at Ohio University. I became very engaged with Saint Mark's in the contemplative prayer group. Since coming to Saint Mark's, I have become very involved in a variety of other things at Saint Mark's and in the Diocese. I have served on the Vestry and as of this year, I am a current member of the Diocesan Council. I am also studying to become a lay preacher licensed by the diocese.



As I continue to be involved with the Saint Mark's community, I am excited by the growth and diversity of the membership and look forward to participating in the upcoming capital campaign as well as to continuing my study of scripture.

John Wilson—See Vestry Candidate answers

OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

NNEMAP Food Pantry

Diapers & Spices: Our next diapers and spices packing day is Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m. in the Canterbury Center (note change in usual location.) In 2024 we packaged more than 2,000 bundles of diapers and more than 1,000 spice packets for NNEMAP clients.

Many hands make light work, so come and join the fun if you are available. No experience required! Please contact Marilyn Karl with any questions (mjkarl.yahoo.com).

Street Church

We are looking for individuals and households who are interested in forming teams to plan, purchase, prepare and serve for our four Sunday meal commitments (March 30, June 29, Aug. 31 and Nov. 30). In addition, we will expand our outreach to provide fruit every fourth Sunday to supplement the meal provided by St. John's, which is thinly staffed.

If you are interested in contributing fruit or funds for fruit any month this year, please contact Roberta Morton (notvmorton@gmail.com) or Sara Warren (sarawarren@gmail.com). If you have questions or are interested in being part of one of our fifth Sunday meal teams, please contact Roberta Morton.

Migration Ministries

In 2024 the Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) organization that Saint Mark's partners with welcomed 809 refugees from 26 countries to central Ohio. CRIS is a refugee resettlement agency that has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. State Department to directly receive and place refugees in the Columbus area. In 2024 Ohio welcomed 4,312 refugees through the State Department Refugee Resettlement Program, according to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. Refugees coming to Ohio in 2024 came from 47 countries, with the largest number of people coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Somali, Senegal and Myanmar.

In order for people to succeed in this country, they must have language skills. Migration Ministries has been exploring opportunities for Saint Mark's members interested in supporting local ESL programs. If you are interested in learning more, contact Elizabeth Anstaett (Oxford4234@aol.com).

Migration Ministries will meet Tuesday, Feb. 25, via Zoom. Contact Elizabeth Anstaett for information. Elizabeth will provide the Zoom link to those interested in attending the meeting.



MUSIC



Choral Evensong on March 2

At 4 p.m. Sunday, March 2, the Saint Mark's Choir will lead a service of Choral Evensong for the Last Sunday of the Epiphany.

The service will honor the memory of Organist Emeritus Michael Murray, who passed away this fall. Choral works will include the exquisite Gloucester Service by Herbert Howells, responses by Herbert Sumsion, and anthems by Felix Mendelssohn and Charles Wood.

Organ music will include works by Jehan Alain and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Special Music Fund at Saint Mark's. A reception will follow. Please join us for this beautiful and inspiring service, and be sure to invite some friends!



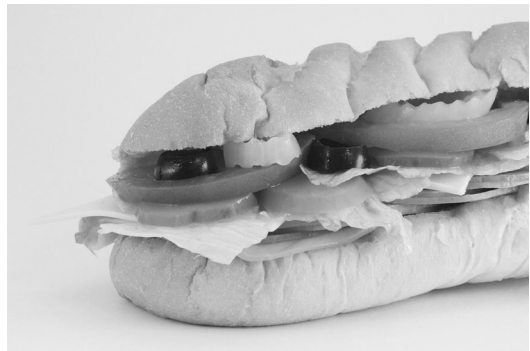
Super Bowl Subs

The Canterbury Choir is taking orders for its annual Super Bowl Subs!

The delicious Italian-style subs will be made fresh and ready for pickup on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 9), following the 10:30 a.m. service.

They are wonderful heated up or cold, and they make a perfect meal for your family and friends on Game Day.

We are taking orders during Fellowship Hour until Feb. 2, or you can contact George Reed at gwrpow-



Organ Concert at Saint Joseph Cathedral

On Sunday, February 9 at 3 p.m., our organist, Michael Schreffler, will perform a recital at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus.

His program will consist of works ranging from late 17th century German baroque to 20th century American, featuring compositions by Josef Rheinberger and William Bolcom among others. The cathedral is home to a landmark pipe organ of 100 ranks built by the Paul Fritts firm of Seattle, and is the ideal vehicle to showcase literature from across the centuries.

The concert is free and open to the public with an opportunity to make a freewill donation at the door.

PARISH LIFE

Confirmation

Confirmation is confirming the promises made on your behalf at baptism and confirming your desire to be a part of the Episcopal Church for this part of your Christian journey.

Youth aged 14 and up and adults who have not been confirmed in the Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic Church or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

Reception is when an adult who has been confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America becomes a part of the Episcopal Church. The Bishop receives these people into the Episcopal Church.

Reaffirmation is when someone who has been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church wants to formally reaffirm their commitment to being a part of the Episcopal Church.

The preparation for all three is the same.

Bishop White is coming to visit Saint Mark's on May 18, 2025 and will be Confirming, Receiving and Reaffirming the faith of interested people at the 10:30 a.m. service that day.

Here is what you need to do.

Watch each of the videos on the confirmation page of the Saint Mark's website (saintmarkscolumbus.org/confirmation) and fill out the form on that page.

Attend the in-person classes on Sunday March 30 and Sunday April 27 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Vicki at rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org or 614-486-9452.



PARISH LIFE

Youth Group

February Youth Group meeting is Sunday Feb. 2 after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Our program is Mystery Lunch. The food is not a mystery. We will be having BBQ from City Barbeque. However, there is a huge mystery around the lunch. Come and find out.

On Sunday March 2 we will be going to Get Air for some bouncing around. We need two parents to help drive and chaperone this event. Let Pastor Vicki know if you are able to help.

First Sunday

The February First Sunday program will take place in the parish hall on Sunday Feb. 2 at 9:30 a.m.

We will be learning about therapy dogs and how people can get involved. Come and find out more about this way to impact our neighbors and community.

Adult Formation

During February the adult formation program will be taking a look at the Gospel of Luke. We will be reading from the Gospel of Luke for all of Year C of the Lectionary, which runs through next November.

Adult Formation meets in the parish hall on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Adult Formation will meet Feb. 16 & 23. There will be no adult formation on Feb. 2 and Feb. 9.

Pinewood Derby

Cub Scout pack 180, which is sponsored by Saint Mark's, is holding their annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday Feb. 8 in the parish hall.

Drop in cheer on the boys as they race their cars. It's an impressive set up and fun to watch.

The Pinewood Derby will take place between 10 a.m. and noon.



Knitting Group

Saint Mark's has two knitting groups.

The daytime knitting group meets the first and third Thursdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.

The evening knitting group meets the second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Both groups meet in the Canterbury Center.

The daytime group will meet Feb. 6 & 20. The evening group will meet Feb. 10.

You can bring your knitting or any other project you are working on. If you want to learn how to knit or get help with your knitting we can do that too.

PARISH LIFE

Tourist in Our Hometown

The February Tourist in our Hometown visit will be on Sunday February 23. We will gather at the Franklin Park Conservatory at 1:30 p.m.

The Conservatory is located at 1777 E. Broad Street. The cost of admission is \$23.50, \$19.50 for seniors and \$16 for children 3 – 12.

During February there are three special exhibitions at the Conservator: Orchids, Color, Fly, Butterfly and Blooms and Butterflies.

California Wildfires

The best way that you can help the people impacted by the wildfires in California is to send money to a trusted agency working in the area. Episcopal Relief and Development is on the ground in California and will be there through the rebuilding process.

You can donate to Episcopal Relief and Development at episcopalrelief.org



Winter Weather Closings

For morning programs and office hours, Saint Mark's follows the Upper Arlington Public Schools. If the Upper Arlington Public Schools are closed, so is Saint Mark's office and Saint Mark's morning programs are cancelled.

For afternoon, evening and weekend activities, including Sunday services, and when the public schools are not in session, Saint Mark's cancels programs, activities and services when the Franklin County Sheriff declares a level 2 or 3 snow emergency. Check the snow emergency level before heading out for an afternoon or evening activity.

Note that program leaders may choose to cancel individual activities even in level 1 snow emergencies as seems prudent.

Should Sunday services be cancelled for weather, a recorded Morning Prayer service will be posted on the Saint Mark's webpage as close to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning as circumstances permit.

BIBLE NOTES

Who Changed?

Bible Notes is an occasional column by Dan Morton

I was reminded in a book I read earlier this year of the story of the daughters of Zelophehad. If you don't know the story already, you might find it surprising. So here it is from the Old Testament in the books of Numbers (chapters 26, 27 and 36) and Joshua (chapter 17).

God had delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt and led them by the hand of Moses through the wilderness to the 'promised land', the land of 'Canaan'. But when they got there, the people were afraid of the land's inhabitants, rebelled against Moses and refused to enter. God's response was that they would wander in the wilderness for forty years until the generation which had left Egypt had perished. The new generation who had not known Egypt would be the ones to enter the promised land.

That new generation of the Israelites was now nearing the end of their wilderness journey. At this point, God commanded Moses and Eleazar the high priest to take a census of the people. Why? To establish the size of the inheritance of land among the clans and tribes of Israel:

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "To these [those enrolled in the census] the land shall be apportioned for inheritance *according to the number of names*. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance according to its enrollment."

There were twelve tribes descending from the sons of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. All the names in this census are male, except when we get to this entry for the descendants of Manasseh:

Now Zelophehad son of Hopher had no sons, only daughters, and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

This was clearly an unusual entry. Women. And surprisingly we are also given their *names*. Names in the Old Testament carry reputation, character and even messages, and here the story of these women is considered important enough that they are identified by name. And note also that it was "according to the number of names" that the inheritance of land would be apportioned. Something is up. Why were these daughters mentioned? We find out why a bit later.

After the census had been completed:

Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying, . . .

We'll get to what they said in a minute. But appreciate the scene. The daughters of Zelophehad "came forward", directly to the top in a very public way: to Moses, Eleazar the high priest, the leaders and all the congregation. It was not correct process to go straight to Moses. And they were untimely: they came forward when the census was already finished. We can also infer from later in the book of Numbers that the daughters were unmarried, so they may have been quite young. Here's what they said:

BIBLE NOTES

“Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the congregation of those who gathered themselves together against the Lord in the congregation of Korah but died for his own sin, and he had no sons. Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father’s brothers.”

They are careful. They want to be sure everyone knows their father did not die as part of the revolt of Korah against the leadership of Moses described in Numbers 16. No, their father simply “died for his own sin”, like all of the other first generation that came out of Egypt. And what about the uncles? Did they help in the background? Or not, standing to benefit if the daughters got nothing?

Inheritance in ancient Israel was from father to son, which was meant to keep the property within the family and within the tribe in an agrarian economy which depended on land ownership. But, the daughters say, why are we penalized because our father had no son? What does Moses say? Quite remarkably, nothing. Instead, he listens and then takes the question straight to God. The only voices we hear in the text are the daughters’ and God’s:

Moses brought their case before the Lord. And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers. You shall also speak to the Israelites, saying: If a man dies and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the Lord commanded Moses.”

Notice what is happening. Moses doesn’t say it’s too late or the rules are the rules or whatever. *He is willing to see if God wants to change the rules. And sure enough, that’s what God does. God expands the rules when God learns from these women that God’s own rules in this case cause an injustice.*

But even so, it wasn’t easy. A bit later they had to agree that if they married, it would be into a clan of their father’s tribe so that their land would not be lost to another tribe. Then, after the conquest of the promised land under Joshua (the successor of Moses), the allotment to the tribe of Manasseh was made to “the male descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph by their families.” Again, the daughters had to come again straight to the top, before Joshua, the high priest Eleazar, and the leaders, to remind them that, “The Lord commanded Moses to give us an inheritance along with our male kin.”

So Joshua did so.

Who was it, then, who changed to allow these women to inherit? Was it God? Or was it the people’s understanding of who God is? Are we uncomfortable with changes to what God has required?

“The Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.” (Isa. 30:18).

And sure enough, that’s what God does. God expands the rules when God learns from these women that God’s own rules in this case cause an injustice.

LIVING IN FAITH. GROWING IN LOVE. CELEBRATING GOD’S PEOPLE.

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live:
 Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep,
 and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BIRTHDAYS

Donald	Trotier	2/1	Gabriel	Ralley	2/16
Martha	Belury	2/1	Eleuteria	Ibarra	2/18
Andrew	Thompson	2/7	Regan	Bohnert	2/19
Gary	Garber	2/9	Ellen	Dickhaut	2/21
Michael	Galbreath	2/10	Amy	Keller	2/21
Casie	Iams	2/10	Lillian	Smith	2/24
Jackson	Moll	2/11	Julie	Wolfe	2/26
Veronica	Warren	2/13	Jean	Gabel	2/27
Daniel	Park	2/14			

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Steven, Katie, and Caroline Deliman	Marilyn Badger
Steve	Syliva Martin
Joe	Ted Carey
Patrick Hreachmack	Anna Dougherty
Sue Barna	Lynn Klemesrud
	Corinne

If you have a pastoral care concern or would like to add a name to the prayer list, you can do so by contacting Pastor Vicki at rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org, or by calling the parish office (614) 486-9452. You may also add a name to our prayer list at www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/prayer-request.

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Member Care

Saint Mark’s has an active member care ministry which provides meals to members who are recovering from illness or surgery, caring for a family member who is ill, welcoming a new baby, or just having difficulty making healthy meals themselves. Please contact Michele Johnson (micheleljohnson@gmail.com) if you know of someone who could use some help with meals or if you are interested in volunteering to help provide some meals.

Support Groups

Saint Mark’s provides meeting space for AA and Al Anon in the parish hall on the following days and times:

- Sundays, 8 p.m. AA Open Group
- Mondays, 5:30 p.m. AA Men’s Group
- Mondays, 7 p.m. AA Open Group
- Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. Al Anon Group
- Tuesdays, 11 a.m., All Anon Small Meeting
- Thursdays, 6:15 & 8 p.m. AA Open Group
- Fridays, 8 p.m. AA Open Group

For details on all services, meetings and events go to:
www.SaintMarksColumbus.org/Calendar

Worship and Formation		
Holy Eucharist Rite I: 8 a.m.	Sundays	Sanctuary
Holy Eucharist Rite II: 10:30 a.m.	Sundays	Sanctuary
Adult Formation: 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.	Feb. 16 & 23	Parish Hall
Children's Formation: 10:30 a.m.	Feb. 9, 16 & 23	Children's Formation Area
Contemplative prayer: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.	Feb. 11	Bishops Library
Stephen Ministers: 12 p.m.	Feb. 16	Canterbury Center
Sisters in Faith: Monday, 7 p.m.	Feb. 17	Canterbury Center
Rector's Day Off: all day	Fridays	
Parish Life and Vestry		
Youth Group: Sunday, after 10:30 a.m. service	Feb. 2	Parish Hall
Vestry meeting: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.	Feb. 4	Canterbury Center
Daytime Knitting & Stitching: Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.	Feb. 6 & 20	Canterbury Center
Evening Knitting & Stitching: Monday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.	Feb. 10	Canterbury Center
Epistle Deadline for March Issue	Feb. 15	
Pub Theology	Feb. 18	Somewhere in Particular
Tourist in Our Hometown: Franklin Park Conservatory 2 p.m.	Feb. 23	
Canterbury Choir Practice, 4:30 p.m.	Wednesdays	Sanctuary
Saint Mark's Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.	Thursdays	Sanctuary
Outreach Ministries		
Diapers & Spices: Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Feb. 12	Canterbury Center
Community Events		
Cub Scout meeting: 5:30 p.m.	Tuesdays	Parish Hall
Cub Scout Pinewood Derby	Feb. 8	Parish Hall
Skoraki Eagle Court of Honor 4 p.m.	Feb. 23	Sanctuary

Annual Meeting

Sunday February 9 after the 10:30 a.m. service



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 Dorset Road
Columbus, OH 43221
www.SaintMarksColumbus.org
(614) 486-9452

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



Mr. & Mrs. Skoracki
and Boy Scout Troop 555
cordially invite you to attend the

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR
FOR

Alexander Skoracki

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025
4:00 pm

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
2152 Dorset Road
Columbus, Ohio

Reception Following Ceremony

RSVP to 614-583-8801
or lauragatsos@hotmail.com