



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Saint Mark's Episcopal Church 2024 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual Meeting February 9, 2025

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2024 Staff, Vestry, Delegates and Trustees

Staff

Rector	The Rev. Vicki Zust
Director of Music	Dr. Matthew Bester
Organist	Michael Schreffler
Office Manager	Melanie Jacobs
Children's Formation	Darien McCoy

Vestry

Senior Warden	Cheryl Boop
Junior Warden	Kevin Fix
Youth Warden	Anna Markwardt
 Class of 2025	 Martha Belury Betsy Gillespie Bruce Johnson Barb Keyes
 Class of 2026	 Steve Brindza Brenda Hammersley Ted Meyers
 Class of 2027	 Dwight Anstaett Michael Bowman Norman Jones Park Zimpher
 Treasurer	 Phil Glandon
Clerk	Jody Porreca

Delegates

November 22 & 23, 2023
Cheryl Boop (ex-officio, Senior Warden)
Michael Bowman
Kevin Fix (ex-officio, Junior Warden)
Barb Keyes

Trustees

Chair	Dot Yeager Elizabeth Anstaett Mark Drew (ex officio, Immediate Past Sr. Warden) Julia Johnson Davis Jay Wilcox
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Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting
February 9, 2025

Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer & Call to Order

Introductions of Staff, Wardens, Vestry and Convention Delegates

Approval of 2024 Minutes

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

Rector's Report

Wardens' Reports

Treasurer's Report

Capital Campaign Update

Discussion for the Good of the Parish

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2024

Opening Prayer and Call to Order

Opening Prayer by Vicki at 12:00 PM.

Introduction of Staff, Wardens, Vestry and Convention Delegates

Staff introduced, music and office.

Recognized current vestry members.

Recognized convention delegates and endowment trustees.

Approval of 2023 Minutes

Approved as written.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

Jodi Hess

Roman Skoracki

Julia Johnson-Davis

Vestry Slate

1. Senior Warden: Cheryl Boop
2. Junior Warden: Kevin Fix
3. Youth Warden: Anna Markwart
 - a. No nominations from the floor.
 - b. Motion to elect these wardens, seconded and approved.
4. Vestry Member: Dwight Anstaett, Michael Bowman, Norman Jones, Paul Zimpher
 - a. No nominations from the floor
 - b. Motion seconded and approved.
5. Convention Delegate: Michael Bowman, Barb Keyes
 - a. No nominations from the floor.
 - b. Motion seconded and approved.
6. Convention Alternate:

Rector's Report

Highlights:

- Cultural and artisans' fair. 17 artisans showing their crafts. Nearly a thousand people came through. Each artisan was a refugee and made enough to make it worth their while. Upper Arlington is working with us this year and has given us a \$3,000 grant.
- Upper Arlington Pride. We were sponsors and had a booth for the 2nd year
- Recognition of our wonderful music program, Matt, Michael and the choirs.
- Labor Day Bake Sale is becoming known and expected and anticipated.
- Harmony for Hunger concert was held here.
- Columbus Regional Vestry Day
- Farmers' Market

- Adult Formations
- Podcast Bible Study
- Children's Formation
- Youth Formation: Taking a pilgrimage to Hawaii: To explore the history of colonization.
- Attendance is back to pre-pandemic levels in person, and we now have an average of 168 online. Vicki's continuing ed is being done at the Fred Rogers Institute to learn how to attract and engage the online presence.

Buildings:

- Vicki talked about several capital projects that need to be addressed. The bell tower is leaking. The HVAC has lived through its life. The skylight is leaking. Kitchen is in need of renewal. We will hear more going forward. Thanks to church leaders for all the work that they have done.

Saint Mark's Lion's Award:

Joyce Acton: Migration Ministry

Larry Anderson: engineering gifts, there are now lights in the Canterbury Center.

Mark Drew: AV maestro. Makes the livestream work, and Marksmen coordinator.

Diane Hartaey: Flower guild. Christmas flowers and Easter flowers and the weekly memorial flowers.

Bill Lange: Music administrator

Dan Morton: adult formation

Alex Reed: Youth verger, reader, Canterbury choir

Wardens' Reports

Senior Warden Cheryl Boop: Full remarks are in the Annual Report. A great year for growth. Many new people are coming for many reasons. We meet everyone where they are. Expressed her joy at being a member here. We strive to create connectedness.

Junior Warden Kevin Fix: Feels after a year that he has a handle on how things work. Thanks to all who work tirelessly behind the scenes on facilities and grounds issues. He mentioned the parish workdays, and thanked people for their over and above efforts on those days.

Treasurer's Reports:

Phil Glandon: Referred to Annual Report, p.21

- All good news. Many new pledges and some exceeded their pledges. Plate receipts, budgeted 480,000, got \$111,000. Our numbers are growing; 19 more pledges.
- We went from a \$58,000 deficit to a \$118,000 surplus.
- We received a \$10,000 grant from the diocese to insulate the education wing.
- Entertained a question about the endowment fund. The church gets the interest and dividends each year, not the principal.
- Discussion about the mission share. (Monies we pay to the Diocese) The mission share varies from church to church. The smaller the congregation, the smaller the share. We fall somewhere in the middle.
- There is a Capital campaign beginning to fund the needed repairs.
- Appreciation expressed to his volunteers.

Discussion for the Good of the Parish

- Question about fixing the automatic door opener. There is a call in for the estimate.
- If you are coming to the international dinner, please RSVP.
- Thank you for coming and participating.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: 12:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Porreca, clerk



2024 Parish Statistics

	2024	2023	2022
Attendance			
Average Sunday Attendance	138	137	106
Average Sunday Digital Attendance	83	168	
<i>Digital Attendance is the unique device views through Tuesday times 1.5</i>			
Easter Attendance	365	421	345

Number of Services

Sunday Eucharist	104	106	102
Weekday Eucharist (public)	7	5	7
Private Eucharist	11	6	3
Marriages	1	0	0
Burials	5	7	2
Baptisms	2	6	5
Confirmations/Receptions	0	0	7



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee brings forth the following slate of candidates for the 2025 Vestry and Convention Delegates.

2025 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)

Alex Reed

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

1-Year Term (1 to be elected)

Bill Lange

Mary Beth Smith

Melanie Tepley

Dan Verrilli

John Wilson

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

Judith Grant

John Wilson

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

TBD

Nominees

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



Cheryl Boop

Cheryl is running for her third one-year term as senior warden. This will be the last year she is eligible to be elected as senior warden.

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



Kevin Fix

Kevin is running for his third one-year term as junior warden. This will be the last year he is eligible to be elected as junior warden.

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



Alex Reed

I became a Saint Marks 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 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.

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

1-YEAR TERM (ONE TO BE ELECTED)



Bill Lange

Actually, my wife (Sarah) and I became part of St. 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 St. 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 St. 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!

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, St. Mark's was my first choice. Martha did not steer me wrong! I feel at home again.

St. 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! St. Mark's strength comes from our joy.

Melanie Tepley



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 St. 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 St. Marks can make a difference in our community. Plus, I am excited to learn about the St. Marks vestry and how I can serve in that capacity.

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 takeaways, 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 St. 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 St. 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 DELEGATE 1-YEAR TERM (TWO TO BE ELECTED)

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 OU. I became very engaged with St. Mark's in the contemplative prayer group. Since coming to St. Mark's, I have become very involved in a variety of other things at St. 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 St. 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 response.

Rector's Report

When the search committee and vestry called me to be the Rector of Saint Mark's, one of the things that they asked me to do was to help Saint Mark's get reconnected with Upper Arlington and the wider community. It feels like we have made great strides in that area last year.

We held our second Cultural & Artisans Fair in May. Through this event we have formed strong links with CRIS and with the City of Upper Arlington. Our Fair is part of the Upper Arlington Community Relations Committee's yearly calendar of event. The Community Relations Committee is providing funding for the 2025 fair, and, more significantly, the City of Upper Arlington is taking on the lion's share of the work of publicizing the fair. In addition to those connections, the event draws people from all over the Columbus area and helps some of our newest neighbors as they establish themselves in our community.

I attend the monthly meetings of Network UA this is a gathering of leaders of the City of Upper Arlington, the UA Schools and a wide variety of non-profits around our community. Through these connections Saint Mark's has been able to have a presence at the UA High Schools hUmAn Connections event. We have hosted a program by the UA Historical Society. We were part of getting the Tri-Village Packers feeding program started and we are working with UA Cares and the UA Public Library on a pilot project to make care bags available for homeless people in our community.

The Upper Arlington Commission on Aging held their first Seniorpalooza at Saint Mark's this fall. They chose us because we are seen as a central location in the community with an accessible facility and that we are a dependable community partner. The event went really well and they have asked if they can come back this fall.

The relationships that Saint Mark's has with Early Music Columbus and the Pro Arte Chorus were developed by our Director of Music, Matt Bester before my arrival. Both groups rehearse here and occasionally hold concerts here. This year we were blessed to be able to have the Marian Consort perform at Saint Mark's before a standing room only crowd. You may also have noticed there is a new, small, instrument in the front of the church. This is the Continuo Organ. It belongs to Early Music Columbus. We have agreed to house it for them. They come and get it when they need it for concerts around the area. As a part of the agreement, we get the chance to use it when it seems appropriate. If you were at the 5:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, you got the chance to hear it accompanying the Canterbury Choir for one of their anthems.

The Upper Arlington Farmer's Market took place on Dorset Road right in front of Saint Mark's from May through October. We opened the church to allow the vendors and shoppers to use our bathrooms and relax in the church. We provided water during the hottest days of summer for both people and pets. We handed out lots of tote bags with our name on it to shoppers. The Market will be back, with a few tweaks to allow for better use of the space in May. As a part of that the City will be making some changes to the parking signs to allow for fewer signs and a simpler lay out.

Through the Tri-Village Packers we have developed a formal relationship with Tremont Elementary School. We are calling the program, In Our Own Backyard. You can read more

about this in the Outreach Report. We are providing food for the school counselor to have available for students who come to school hungry and we have become a resource for the school to reach out to when they have a need.

Because I make an effort to be present at community activities and events and because Saint Mark's sponsors activities that our youth are involved in, both Saint Mark's and me personally have developed relationships with many of the leaders of the Upper Arlington School District. One result of this is that I have been named to the Building Team for Hastings Middle School as a part of the Districts Facilities Planning Process. I'm learning a lot about the state of our Middle School Buildings.

There are lots of other ways that we are connected to Upper Arlington and the wider community and we are becoming known as a good neighbor and a community partner.

There are lots of new faces around Saint Mark's. It seems like we have visitors nearly every Sunday. Thank you all for all that you do to introduce yourself to people you don't know and taking the time to have conversations with visitors and newer people in our community.

I want to highlight in particular one new face. Darien McCoy began in October as a part of our Children's Formation Team. Darien has quickly become an integral part of our children's ministry here at Saint Mark's and we are so happy to have him as a part of our community.

Our wonderful treasurer, Phil Glandon, will go into detail about the finances of Saint Mark's, but I want to highlight one thing. In both 2023 and 2024 the vestry stepped out in faith and presented to you budgets with significant deficits. The vestry believed that taking the risk to invest in maintaining programs and staffing and advertising expenditure was necessary for Saint Mark's to continue to grow and that has proved to be true. In both 2023 and 2024 we end the year with significant surpluses. This is due in large part to your generosity and trust.

Our digital congregation continues to be a significant part of our attendance. In 2024 we had nearly as many people worshipping with us digitally as we had in person. Some of our digital congregation join us live, some catch up on worship later on Sunday or on Monday or Tuesday. I suspect that some of you are sometimes members of the digital congregation as your schedules require. We are continuing to work on ways to allow our digital congregation to engage more with the life of Saint Mark's.

As many of you know, we engaged in a feasibility study for a Capital Campaign this fall. A report on that study and the next steps in the capital campaign is included in this report. The Capital Campaign will be a large part of the work of 2025 with the work funded by the campaign taking us into 2026. We will be looking for help in both the Capital Campaign and the work itself.

Speaking of 2026, that will mark the 75th Anniversary of Saint Mark's. We are planning a year's worth of celebrations that will begin at next year's annual meeting. We will be looking for help with planning events as that gets closer.

I can't end this report without saying thank you to our great staff here at Saint Mark's. Matthew Bester, Melanie Jacobs, Michael Schreffler and Darien McCoy are all wonderful colleagues and make my job easy. Thank you also to our wardens Cheryl Boop and Kevin Fix and our treasurer Phil Glandon and all of the members of the vestry for all of the time and energy they give to the life and ministry of Saint Mark's.



Senior Warden's Report

This year has been exciting and full of hope and community.

We have a new bishop who has a vision for the Diocese of Southern Ohio that is closely linked with our own vision for Saint Mark's. Bishop Kristin Uffelman White was ordained and consecrated in Columbus last February with many of our parishioners taking active roles in the festivities, including a spotlight on our own Canterbury Choir. As Bishop White reiterated in her message on January 25, our diocese "identified the values of integrity, relationship, and love as integral to our common life as we seek to live" into our shared mission of embodying "the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share in God's transformation of our communities, with the Holy Spirit as our guide."

Both Bishop White and Vicki consistently remind us that we are called to be *active* in our faith. And I believe Saint Mark's has taken that ideal to heart. We bring the message of God's love to our community and model loving others as God loves us through our fellowship with each other and in our welcoming of people to our church, whether that's on Sundays and holidays for worship, the Farmer's Market Wednesdays, the many concerts by local and international groups, the Cultural and Artisans Fair, the UA Historical Society Lecture, the AARP tax preparation, and the various groups using our church for their own meetings, including the Boy Scouts, the UA Crew and AA.

Our Outreach, Children's Formation, Adult Formation, Marksmen, knitting groups, book groups, choirs, Saturday Night Supper group and youth group are going strong.

This year, we had a wonderful night celebrating our migration ministries with the International Night Food Tasting. We expanded our formation offerings to include a podcast on Paul's letter to the Philippians and introduced Pub Theology.

Our commitment to getting to know ourselves and our community on a more social level was demonstrated by our Tour of Asia on Bethel Road and our Tourist in our Hometown outings. I have truly enjoyed getting to know so many of you through these interactions! Our Pet Blessing continues to be a fun way to get to know some of our furry (and maybe scaly?) friends and neighbors. We welcomed the Mayor of Upper Arlington, Ukeme Awakessien Jeter, to discuss her book, *Immigrit*.

The Youth took a pilgrimage to Hawaii this past year, bringing home with them some new outlooks on the Episcopal church and US history, as well as a better understanding of our ecosystem.

Our Regional Vestry Day continues to be a model to the Diocese of working together to help all of our Columbus area churches thrive. Our collaboration with St. Patrick's church in welcoming new neighbors to the west side of Columbus has been another experiment that has built community within the churches.

Our own vestry has amazing people who bring different perspectives to the table. It is an active vestry with everyone sharing responsibility for the activities around the church and ensuring that the vision and mission of Saint Mark's is carried through in all that we do.

Every week, it seems, we have new faces in our congregation, and everyone is so good about welcoming them with true kindness and appreciation.

The strength that we have in our love for each other and for our community is what helps us through the rough times. Facilities that are aging, costs that are increasing, outside pressures that affect each of us personally – we don't have control over these. But what we do have is the love of God, the promise that God is always with us, and our church community. I thank God every day for each and every one of you and for Saint Mark's.



Junior Warden's Report

It has been a pleasure to serve in the position of Junior Warden again this past year. As I continue to learn more about our buildings and grounds, and the amount of money and effort that goes into maintaining them, I hope that I can serve even more effectively going forward. My goal for our buildings and grounds is to support the needs of our parishioners and all who rely on Saint Mark's, in an environment that is safe, comfortable and inviting.

We faced a number of challenges over the past year, some of which had to be addressed immediately, and some of which will require more time and investment than our annual facilities budget will allow. Some key items from the past year are as follows:

- We repaired and refurbished the skylight over the sanctuary at significant expense. Although this was an unexpected project, it improved the structural integrity of the skylight and was completely covered by funds in the operating budget.
- Network and IT management were outsourced to a third-party IT management firm. This will provide more dedicated support in the event of a network issue, enhance cybersecurity, and provide more structure to hardware and software replacement cycles, including for the A/V equipment used in our livestream production.
- 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; this is important maintenance work that is done entirely by volunteers.
- The movable panels between the narthex and Parish Hall were reupholstered and repaired.
- We installed panic bars on the patio doors in the Parish Hall and replaced the exit door leading from the narthex to the outdoor play area, improving building safety and security.
- The ad hoc committee formed to consider emergency preparedness for our campus has developed an emergency preparedness policy for Saint Mark's and created a brochure to communicate key elements of that policy.
- More recently, we have had to address several issues with our HVAC systems, including substantial repair work on the boiler and the failure of one of our furnaces. Upgrading and rationalizing our HVAC systems will have to be a priority in the near future.

Maintaining our campus requires significant funds and countless volunteer hours, and I would like to acknowledge and thank those parishioners who volunteer significant time behind the scenes to make our campus a welcoming place. There are so many examples it is impossible to list them all, but this generous giving of time saves many dollars in our budget.

I look forward to continuing to serve as Junior Warden in the coming year. Thank you again to Vicki and Cheryl for your leadership, and to my fellow Vestry members for your generosity, your collaborative spirit and your dedication to this important work.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Fix, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Review of 2024 Financial Results: Saint Mark's enjoyed another year of excellent financial results in 2024. Instead of a budgeted \$34,000 deficit, we recorded net income of \$76,318.

Revenue - For the third year in a row, we were blessed with contributions that significantly exceeded our expectations for both pledged and non-pledged support. Our earnings from investments also outperformed our forecast. In total, revenue was \$76,829 better than budget.

Expenses – Expenses were below or very close to budget in every major category resulting in expenditures that were \$33,488 less than anticipated. Our biggest expense savings resulted from the Diocese granting all parishes a reduction in their mission share assessment. Diocesan leadership notified us in mid-May, 2024 that they had collected more than they needed in 2023 to cover the expenses of the Diocese, and they would return the surplus. Saint Mark's received a \$10,855 credit and a small overpayment from 2023 further reduced that expense in 2024. I applaud Bishop Kristen Uffelman White for taking that leap of faith to help all her parishes balance their budgets.

2025 Operating Budget: The Vestry has approved the operating expense budget for 2025 of \$621,195 which is slightly lower than the 2024. A conservative revenue estimate of \$607,000 leaves us with a deficit of \$14,195. Hopefully we will once again receive some surprise donations that will cover that loss.

Revenue – Our Stewardship Campaign for 2025 resulted in a \$15,000 increase in total pledges, however at the time we approved the budget in December an increase of \$13,000 was all we had received. We received strong Plate and Non-pledged support totaling \$105,000 in 2024, which comes from many gifts that are unpredictable. \$75,000 in Plate and Non-pledged support is a stretch. We do not feel comfortable budgeting anymore for 2025. Investment earnings have been very good for the past two years, averaging over \$66,000, but we do not feel comfortable budgeting investment earnings at that high level. We have budgeted \$27,000 in 2025, the same as the budget in 2024.

Expenses – We have raised our staff compensation by 4% in 2025. We feel we can hold most of our other expense increases to around 3- 4%. We are continuing to build our Outreach budget by increasing it 20% to \$18,000 in 2025. By comparison, the 2021 Outreach budget was just \$6,600. It should be noted that donations, fund raisers and grants increase our funds available for Outreach to over \$54,000.

The Diocese has indicated that in 2025 they will not base our assessment on a percentage of our income used in operations as in the past. They informed us that a fixed amount of \$61,355 is our 2025 mission share. Using the old formula, we would pay \$81,000. A great change in my opinion!

Concluding Thoughts – Our church is in good financial shape, with an operating budget that will allow us to continue to thrive. However, we are at risk due to our aging HVAC systems, and recurring roof, plumbing and drainage issues. In 2025 we will undertake a much-needed capital

campaign to update, repair or replace these as appropriate, and upgrade our kitchen, bathrooms and other public spaces. With a successful campaign we will be able to celebrate our 75th Anniversary in 2026 prepared for a vibrant future.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Glandon
Treasurer

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

2024 Statement of Activity and 2025 Budget

As of 1-27-25

	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
REVENUES:			
Member Contributions - pledged	\$ 472,000	\$ 491,747	\$ 485,000
Plate & non-pledge receipts	75,000	105,158	75,000
Earnings from Investments	27,000	53,387	27,000
Rental Income	18,000	19,104	18,000
Other Income	2,000	1,433	2,000
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 594,000</u>	<u>\$ 670,829</u>	<u>\$ 607,000</u>
EXPENSES:			
Staff & Payroll Expenses	312,475	303,358	321,540
Administration	68,015	68,691	71,856
Facilities	132,900	130,779	133,219
Outreach	15,000	15,000	18,000
Diocesan Mission Share	82,000	62,629	61,355
Christian Formation	5,450	2,375	3,600
Fellowship & Hospitality	3,050	3,270	3,750
Member Care	-	688	
Music	4,210	5,379	4,450
Worship	4,900	2,343	3,425
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 628,000</u>	<u>\$ 594,512</u>	<u>\$ 621,195</u>
Net Income (deficit)	<u>\$ (34,000)</u>	<u>\$ 76,318</u>	<u>\$ (14,195)</u>

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

Designated Fund Balances at December 31, 2024

Altar Guild	\$712	Mark's Men	\$1,536
Canterbury Choir	\$17,999	Memorial Garden	\$5,618
Capital Campaign - 2025	\$10,000	Memorial Gifts	\$8,427
Choir England Trip	\$4,667	Outreach	\$12,857
Endowment	\$354,882	Rector's Discretionary	\$4,015
Flower Guild	\$7,282	Special Music	\$41,045
Funeral Receptions	\$1,129	Staff Christmas	\$4,040
Gary Garber Scholarship	\$4,879	Trinity Guild	\$52,042
Landscaping & Gardens	\$2,743	Vacation Bible School	\$2,195
Major Projects	\$174,977	Youth Mission	\$463

Results of 2025 Stewardship Campaign as of 1/28/2025

	#	2025	2024	Change
Increases	54	283,774	253,562	30,212
New	15	26,192	-	26,192
Same as 2024	38	164,070	164,070	-
Decreases	4	15,200	18,300	(3,100)
Subtotal - Received	111	489,236	435,932	53,304
No response	9	-	18,640	(18,640)
Gone	3	-	19,500	(19,500)
Total	123	489,236	474,072	15,164

Endowment Trustees Report

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund during 2024 were: Dot Yeager (chair), Elizabeth Anstaett (treasurer), Jay Wilcox, Mark Drew and Julia Johnson Davis.

Meetings: At the December 2023 meeting, the trustees decided to explore the feasibility of moving the Endowment Fund assets from the Columbus Foundation to the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). ECF made an initial presentation in January 2024. The Trustees formally met twice during the year, in May and June, to review the Endowment Fund investments, and continue to review the proposal to withdraw the funds from the Columbus Foundation and invest in the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). After a thorough review, in August 2024, the Trustees approved a resolution to move the fund to ECF, which occurred in October 2024.

Decision to invest Endowment Fund assets with ECF: The Episcopal Church in the USA recommends a continuum of approaches for churches to adopt faithful and ethically responsible investing. Accordingly, ECF offers different options with various levels of active and passive asset allocation. Saint Mark's has chosen the path that includes shareholder engagement through voting and also investing for social and environmental outcomes as well as for financial return. The All Passive portfolio option takes advantage of ECF's asset manager, State Street, expertise in shareholder engagement and doesn't involve either positive or negative screening of specific companies or industries.

Endowment Fund Financial Information: At December 31, 2024, the total principal and income balance of the Endowment Fund invested in the account at the Episcopal Church Foundation was \$354,881.74, compared to \$339,656.04 at December 31, 2023. During 2024, investment income was \$6,168.39 and realized and unrealized gains were \$25,670.29. In 2024, fees and expenses totaled \$1,332.98. Two distributions were made from the Endowment fund to the Parish operating fund during 2024 totaling \$15,280.

Thanks to each of the Trustees for their service this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Dot Yeager, Endowment Trustees Chair

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Endowment Fund Financial Statement
For the Period Ended December 31, 2024

Fund balance 12/31/2023	\$ 339,656.04
<u>2024 Activity:</u>	
Realized/unrealized gains	25,670.29
Income distributed to parish operations	(15,280.00)
Investment income	6,168.39
Administration & Investment Fees	<u>(1,332.98)</u>
Fund Balance 12/31/2024	<u>\$ 354,881.74</u>

Capital Campaign Update

During the fall we underwent a feasibility study to determine if we could successfully complete a capital campaign. The vestry appointed an ad-hoc committee consisting of Pastor Vicki, Kevin Fix, Betsy Gillespie, Phil Glandon, Bruce Johnson, and Ted Meyers to begin the process of writing a case statement and directing a process leading to a capital campaign.

We engaged Horizons Stewardship to help with the work of the feasibility study. Many of you attended first impression gatherings, participated in the digital survey or met with our consultant, Rick Villardo, as a part of that process.

We received the results of the feasibility study in mid-January. There was a lot of good news.

- An overwhelming percentage (96%) of respondents think the plan is exciting or good.
- A similarly high percentage (93%) believe that the planned work will help us carry out our mission and ministry.
- More than half (60%) of the respondents express a willingness to help with the capital campaign. ***If this is you, please let Pastor Vicki know!***

Respondents are also very positive about Saint Mark's. A definitive majority (100%) feel that Saint Mark's is moving forward with the right leadership in place. More than 75% of respondents believe that we can meet the campaign's goal.

26 respondents gave us a range of support they would consider. The sum of those give us an indication that we could receive from \$625,000 to \$1,078,000 from those 26 families.

Currently, the committee is reviewing feedback about the many projects in the campaign. We are determining how to prioritize these projects and will use that in the development of a final case statement.

We expect to bring this final case statement to the congregation later this year and officially kick off the capital campaign.

Please keep the committee in your prayers. Also, please give prayerful consideration to how you might respond to a call to participate in a campaign that covers both the "seen and unseen" at Saint Mark's.

Music

It has been another great year for the music program at Saint Mark's, filled with outstanding liturgy and music.

The Saint Mark's Choir had an excellent year. In addition to the usual Sunday morning services, the choir sang for numerous special services throughout 2024. In March, the choir led a beautiful service of Choral Evensong, with music by Edward Bairstow, William H. Harris, Egil Hovland, and Kenneth Leighton. The choir provided music for the full complement of Holy Week services, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Highlights included Edward Bairstow's *Sing Ye to the Lord*, John Ireland's *Greater Love Hath No Man*, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*. In June, the choir closed out the 2023–2024 program year with a service of Choral Matins, with thrilling music by Giovanni Croce, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Herbert Howells, and John Stainer.

In the fall, the Saint Mark's Choir led a service of Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday, with music by William H. Harris, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Philip Radcliffe, and Charles Villiers Stanford. Several weeks later, the choir led a service of Choral Eucharist, featuring the *Missa brevis* of Grayston Ives. In December the choir joined forces with the Canterbury Choir for our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols, which included favorites by Herbert Howells, Paul Manz, and Charles Wood, among others. The fall season culminated in late December with a glorious service for Christmas Eve, with music by Stephen Cleobury, Herbert Howells, Gerald Near, Tomás Luis de Victoria, and Healey Willan.

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 2023–2024 season, with music by Nancy Hill Cobb, George Dyson, and S. Drummond Wolff. The choir has been blessed by the outstanding peer leadership of our Head Choristers (Charlotte Davis and Alex Reed in 2023–2024; Maria Bester and Madalyn Ralley in 2024–2025).

In February, both choirs were excited to participate in the consecration of Kristin Uffelman White as the next Bishop of Southern Ohio. Members of the Saint Mark's Choir participated in the large diocesan choir, providing music throughout the service. The Canterbury Choir, meanwhile, was asked to sing two anthems by itself during the service. They were the only youth choir invited to participate in the event.

The music program also experienced some bittersweet moments this year. The Saint Mark's Choir sang for several memorial services, including for former longtime member Sam Slee and our beloved Organist Emeritus Michael Murray. On a brighter note, the choir was thrilled to sing for the wedding of longtime member Ellen Berndt in October.

Saint Mark's also hosted several 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 April, Saint Mark's hosted the Columbus Chapter of the American

Guild of Organists for their Student Recital, which we will host again this coming spring. In November, we welcomed the UK-based chorus The Marian Consort for an exquisite program of music from Renaissance Scotland, an event that drew a capacity crowd from throughout the metropolitan area.

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 2025!

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Bester
Director of Music



Organist

Behind the scenes....an update on our pipe organ

From the softest of whispers to a mighty roar, no other single instrument has the dynamic range of the pipe organ. Behind that sound, and the graceful screen and pipe façade you see each time you enter our sanctuary, lies an assembly of pipes and mechanism that is arguably the most complex piece of equipment in the church. Like anything else that receives regular use, our instrument is subject to wear and tear, age and the occasional thing that just breaks. Over the past year, especially, several significant components have been repaired. Among these is the pedal board (played by the feet of the organist), which dates to the original 1987 instrument. Anyone who has ever attended an organ recital where there is a good view of the person playing knows that organ music often calls for very active pedal playing. All that running up and down the pedals over decades has worn out the bushings that insulate the pedals themselves from making too much noise as they are depressed and released. While not noticeable in a louder piece of music thanks to the volume of sound coming from the pipes, noisy mechanical action becomes apparent in more delicate, quieter repertoire. Peebles-Herzog, our organ maintenance firm, recently refurbished the pedal board.

Other components recently serviced that pre-date the 2016 organ additions project include the wind regulators that affect two of the main divisions of the instrument. The pipes of any single division sit atop a windchest that contains the mechanism by which the organist's fingers and feet open the valves under the pipes to admit air. Playing a few separate notes demands very little wind while playing large chords calls for considerably more, as does using more stops at one time. These varying demands on wind supply within the windchest would create instability and an uneven sound were it not for wind regulators, often called *schwimmers*, that help keep the air supply to the pipes steady regardless of the demands placed upon it by the organist. Two of these *schwimmers* have stood the test of time since about 1987 but had recently started to show their wear and were refurbished by Peebles-Herzog.

The organ requires regular tuning, which is done about twice a year. In addition, our technicians sometimes must fix a 'cipher', a pipe that speaks spontaneously without the organist touching a key, or a 'dead note', a pipe that simply refuses to speak. All these issues are part and parcel to any instrument that gets regular use, as does ours. Essential to the music ministry of St. Mark's, our pipe organ will last for generations with proper care.

Michael Schreffler
Organist

Adult Formation

Adult Formation meets from 9:30 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings from September through May. The first Sunday of the month is either activities like the Fall Festival, Pet Blessing, Advent Wreath making or a stand alone program on a variety of topics.

The topics for the regular adult formation programs are brainstormed in the spring and scheduled through the year. Most of the adult formation programs are livestreamed and the videos are available on the Adult Formation page of Saint Mark's website.

In 2024, a team of people recorded a Bible Study podcast on the book of Philippians. The podcast is four episodes of about an hour each. You can find the podcast on the Adult Formation page of Saint Mark's website. Thank you to Dan Morton, Cheryl Boop, Judith Grant, Michael Bowman and Norman Jones for taking part in the podcast.

Youth Formation

Saint Mark's youth group is open to all youth in grades six through twelve. The youth group meets the first Sunday of the month from October through June. The leaders of the youth group are Pastor Vicki, Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt and Martha Belury.

The youth group activities range from fun and bonding activities like escape rooms and hide and go seek to learning activities like a trip to the Hopewell Mounds to spiritual activities like spirituality through art.

In June we took a pilgrimage to Hawaii. We explored the presence of God in the natural world, learned about the history of Hawaii and the Episcopal Church in Hawaii and spent a day working on restoring some native plants with a local group. Thank you to all of the parents who went on the trip, it was an amazing experience.

This summer our activity will be some kind of local activity, possibly including an overnight at church.

Saint Mark's sponsors activities that Saint Mark's youth are involved in. Please let Pastor Vicki know about your games, concerts, performances and shows. She likes to show up for those things and we will take out program ads or sponsorships too.

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 Bowman serves as vestry liaison. In September we added Darien McCoy to our team as Children's Formation Assistant. 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.

Children's Chapel: Children in first through fifth grades are led by Joanne Drew with as-needed assistance from Charlotte Davis and Matilda Drew.

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.

Christmas Pageant: One of the highlights of the church year for those of us who volunteer in Children's ministry is the Christmas Pageant.

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.

Outreach Ministry

Outreach completed its first year under a new administrative structure. Under the leadership of a six-person Administrative Committee, we held quarterly, parish-wide Summits in January, March, June and September. We believe the new structure allows increased participation in ministry projects and reduces time spent on general administration. Notably, Outreach was successful in applying for and receiving grants totaling \$8,000 to support its work.

Here are some examples of the ways your support made a difference in 2024.

Migration Ministry hosted an International Food Dinner to educate and raise funds for the Culture & Artisans Fair. Despite iffy weather, the Fair was attended by close to 1,000 people with 20 artisans and 3 food truck operators participating. Proceeds of over \$9,000 (an increase of \$700 over last year) went directly to the artisans. A grant of \$3,000 from the City of Upper Arlington and 50+ volunteers from Saint Mark's, Scouting, the City of UA and CRIS made the successful event possible. Migration Ministries also coordinated donations from many Saint Mark's parishioners to aid the relocation of a refugee family from Colombia.

Our work in rural, underserved Vinton County continued by supporting the Help Me Grow and Families Flourish programs in numerous ways. A grant from Episcopal Community Ministries for \$5,000, and donations from parishioners, allowed us to provide 200 backpacks of school supplies and buy items for infants. We knitted hats, booties, blankets, and toys, and donated grooming kits, strollers, crib sheets, baby clothes, car seats, etc. from our annual Baby Shower. This active ministry is making a difference in the lives of Vinton County families.

Saint Mark's members continue to support the NNEMAP food pantry through the work of 20+ parishioners by bundling diapers, creating spice packets, donating food items and cash, and working at the pantry in various capacities.

Our long-term support of St. John's Town Street's ministry to the Franklinton neighborhood continued with the help of 35+ Saint Mark's members providing approximately 470 meals and fellowship to the needy at the corner of Broad & Central on 5 Sundays this year.

We birthed a new ministry this year from our relationship with the Tri-Village Packers and Tremont Elementary School. The Ministry includes assisting with food boxes for needy children during school holiday breaks, providing supplies of healthy snacks, and responding to ad hoc emergency requests from the school Principal. We call this new ministry "In Our Own Backyard."

In addition to supporting hands-on outreach, the annual Outreach budget (together with proceeds from fundraising events) provides cash donations to local, regional and international organizations serving those in need, such as Habitat for Humanity, Episcopal Relief & Development, Star House, Open Shelter, Freedom a la Cart, and Families Flourish. We have much to be grateful for, especially the ongoing support of our Saint Mark's family!



Income and Expenditures

Cash donations were made to partner agencies to help them fulfill their missions as they know best, with checks totaling \$17,580:

Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)	\$1,000
Episcopal Relief & Development (disaster response) (includes funds from fundraisers)	\$2,050
Families Flourish (housing & mentoring families)	\$2,000
Freedom a la Cart (human trafficking victims)	\$2,000
Habitat for Humanity (improving housing)	\$1,000
Haitian Community Center – Springfield	\$1,000 (one-time support)
NNEMAP Food Pantry	\$4,130 (donations from fundraisers)
Open Shelter (serves the homeless)	\$1,500
Star House (supports homeless teens)	\$2,500
<i>Tri-Village Packers</i> - meals during school holidays	\$400

Altar Guild

Saint Mark's Altar Guild has 19 members, each serving once or twice a month. The Altar Guild prepares things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and any other sacraments and offices of the church. We also meet twice a year for brunch, fellowship, and updates.

We are looking for several new members.

Ushers

Saint Mark's Usher Team has 25 members, each serving once or twice a month plus special services.

Ushering includes greeting parishioners, passing offerings plates, guiding everyone to communion, and cleaning up pews after the service.

We are always happy to welcome new members.



