



St. Mark's
+
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting
&
Report to the Parish

March 27, 2011-March 10, 2012

March 11, 2012
11:30 am

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill , 2011-12

Table of Contents

<p>Candidates for Vestry & Diocesan Delegate 2</p> <p>Agenda 3</p> <p>Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting..... 4</p> <p>State of the Parish (Rector's Report) 6</p> <p>Assistant Rector's Report..... 9</p> <p>Staff Reports:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Director of Music 10</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Director of Youth and Family Ministries 11</p> <p>Senior Warden's Report..... 13</p> <p>Junior Warden /Manciple/Fabric Committee..... 14</p> <p>Treasurer's Report 15</p> <p>Budget Summary for 2012 16</p> <p>Endowment 17</p> <p>Major Actions of Vestry, Wardens, Rector 20</p>	<p>Reports of the Standing Committees/Task Forces</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Membership Development 21</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Race and Reconciliation 21</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Elders 21</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Garden 21</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Green Lions..... 22</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Caregivers 23</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Vision 2020 23</p> <p>Diocesan Report 25</p> <p>Reports from the Pillars</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Worship 27</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Christian Education 29</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Outreach..... 31</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Arts Council 32</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Parish Life 33</p>
--	---

CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

March 11, 2012

The Nominating Committee is pleased to place the following names before the membership for consideration:

The Vestry: three seats, each for a term of three years

Kevin Billings, Geoffrey Brown, Jane Byrne, Eric Fiala,
Deanna Garner, Amy Kovac-Ashley, Pamela Lacey, Jim Steed, Caitie Whelan

†

Diocesan Delegate: one seat, for a term of three years

Suella Henn

†

Senior Warden: one seat, for a term of one year

Cecelia Carter Monahan

†

Junior Warden: one seat, for a term of one year

Phil Guire

+

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Cecelia Monahan, *Senior Warden* Phil Guire, *Junior Warden*

Members of the Vestry Ed Corr, Jim Steed, Vicki Street

Members of the Parish: Jim Brooks, Ray Hahn, Erika Lehman

The Rev. Paul Abernathy, *ex officio*

The Rev. Justi Schunior, *ex officio*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 11, 2011

11 am Lunch *provided by the vestry*

11:30 am Annual Meeting

Call to Order The Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

Opening prayer The Rector

Approval of the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting

State of the Parish Remarks The Rector

Update: *Vision 2020: Capital Campaign* The Rector, Michael Townsend, Ed Corr

Elections:

1. Vestry

Nominations

Candidate remarks followed by Q&A

The vote

2. Diocesan Delegate

Nominations

Candidate remarks followed by Q&A

The vote

3. Senior Warden

Nominations

Candidate remarks

The vote

4. Junior Warden

Nominations

Candidate remarks

The vote

Acknowledgements..... The Rector

Announcement: Election Results The Rector

Adjournment

Closing Prayer The Rev. R. Justi Schunior, Ass't Rector

Minutes of the March 26, 2011 Annual Meeting
DRAFT – for approval at the 2012 Annual Meeting

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector, called the Annual Meeting of St. Mark's Episcopal Church to order at 6:30 p.m. and offered the opening prayer.

Registration officials affirmed a quorum of eligible voters had registered and were in attendance.

Special Resolution on absentee voting for this meeting Senior Warden Kenn Allen moved, on behalf of the Vestry, a suspension of the rules in order to allow counting of votes cast by eligible voting members who are attending the Life, Community, and Faith weekend. These votes would only be valid for the first ballot of the Vestry election and for the election of the Diocesan Delegate. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes The motion to approve the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting was seconded and approved by voice vote.

State of the Parish The Rector's report is on pages 6-7 of the 2011 *Annual Meeting & Report to the Parish*. He thanked twenty-six parishioners by name plus the Vestry, parish officers, wardens for their contributions to our vibrant community. He closed by stating "We are worthy of congratulations – we have tackled the secret of the universe – life is complex and ambitious, life's events and experiences are constant and random, therefore the greatest is– finding meaning in experiences. We value the individual in the community."

Update on Vision 2020:Capital Campaign *The Rector, Kenn Allen, and Mike Townsend*. Paul reported that Mike Townsend was not here tonight because his parents have sold their home and this was the final disposition of their home. Our hearts are with Mike and his parents in this transition.

Paul said that the Capital Campaign gives us an opportunity to step back and look at who we are and where we are going. Kenn provided some details. The process was started in July 2009 to think through space issues. The Vestry agreed and moved to the Discernment process: building studies, zoning, dream-catching efforts, and community engagement. We hired Bonstra/Haresign Architects for a conceptual design. A feasibility study was completed by Episcopal Church Foundation and reported that we could raise \$1.3-1.5 million. The Vestry approved. Funding for these early stages has come from the Endowment and on an interest-free line-of-credit from the Diocese of Washington. Some decisions were made: to sell Baxter House, the selection of an architect, and the hiring of an outside project manager. Fundraising is scheduled for this fall with construction to follow. Paul, Kenn, and Mike see the spirit moving within the community. St. Mark's is ready to move forward.

Election of the Vestry *Mary Lee Watts, Chair of Nominating Committee*
The time-keeper was Doris Burton.

Mary Lee Watts placed the names of the following candidates for Vestry on the floor for consideration: Jane Byrne, Chuck Divine, Grady Hedgespeth, Charlotte Murray, Jim Steed, and Janet Vail. A motion to close the nominations was made, seconded and approved.

Each nominee offered a three-minute address. Questions were then posed to the candidates who were given two minutes each to respond to the following questions:

1. Do you fully support the capital campaign?
2. Which two top priorities do you support?

At the close of the Q&A period, ballots were distributed. The Rector named Joe Calizo, Karen Falk, Susan Thompson, and Ryan Velasco as tellers for the election and instructed voting members to vote for three Vestry members only to ensure their ballot would be counted. The first runner-up would take Cecilia Monahan's remaining one-year term as she resigned to run for Senior Warden.

Election of the Diocesan Delegate Mary Lee Watts placed the names of Scott Kubista-Hovis and Maureen

Shea in nomination for Diocesan Delegate. No other nominations were made. A motion to close the nomination was made, seconded, and approved. Each nominee offered a three-minute address. The Rector instructed the voters to vote for one diocesan delegate.

Consideration of Proposed Amendment to the Parish By-Laws The Rector announced that, at the February 13, 2011 Vestry Meeting, the Vestry approved this proposed amendment to the By-Laws to allow absentee voting at future annual meetings:

Current Language Article IV, Section 403 "Election of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Members of the Vestry, and a Lay Delegate is by written ballot (unless unopposed) by a simple majority of the members of the Parish voting at the Annual Meeting." [Sentences following describe who is to be elected.]

Proposed Amendment (addition to above): "Absentee ballots may be cast by those who, by reason of illness or absence from the Washington DC metro area, are unable to attend the annual meeting, under such procedures as are established by the Vestry and publicized to the parish not less than thirty days prior to the annual meeting."

Don Mosher moved to amend the proposed by-law change by deleting the last sentence and substituting the following: "*Absentee voting is limited to the election of candidates. It is allowed only for voting members who are out of town for scheduled Christian Ed classes or official church business. Upon request, absentee ballots will be provided to eligible members by the Election Committee. Absentee ballots must be returned to the church office at least three days before the annual meeting.*"

There followed a lengthy discussion re: the advantages and disadvantages of offering absentee ballots. Many expressed concern that absentees would be unable to fairly judge candidates because they cannot hear the candidate's speeches, especially important when unfamiliar candidates are running, as well as hearing the responses to questions posed by the Nominating Committee. There was also concern that, without some limit put on qualifications for absentee ballots, attendance at the meeting could fall, making it difficult to achieve quorum, thereby forcing a re-scheduling of the meeting and/or being unable to finalize an election.

A motion to close debate passed. The question was called on the amendment to the amendment and it was defeated. Question was called on the original amendment. The proposed amendment to the bylaws failed.

Remarks by Retiring Senior Warden Kenn Allen Kenn's report is on page 8 of the 2011 *Annual Meeting & Report to the Parish*. He said it would be impossible to thank everyone who has provided help but he called particular attention to his advisory committee which was superb – Rob Hall, the convener, Scilla Adams, Christi Anthony, Charmian Crawford, Kerstin Millius, Greg Smith, Crane Miller and, in the first year, Gene Kendall . He asked them to stand for acknowledgement.

At the 2009 annual meeting, when Kenn first stood for election as Senior Warden, he identified four areas where he thought we needed to be intentional in our renewal. He offered these comments about the progress we have made in those four areas of identity, community, engagement, and governance and management:

- A. Today, we have a strong brand that we are communicating effectively;
- B. We are well on our way to the capital campaign and beyond, to the much needed renovation and expansion of our physical plant;
- C. We continue to strengthen our care-giving to those within our community; we have taken even stronger steps into the world outside our doors; with strong support from the parish, the Vestry approved our public support for same-sex marriage;
- D. The Governance Task Force analyzed our current structures and systems and provided a practical set of steps to improve both;
- E. The Vestry formally chartered the Pillar Council and approved the concept of a new Christian Education Council with final approval to come later this year.

F. Members of the Vestry have strengthened their liaison roles with the Pillars, our youth ministry, and key committees.

Paul Abernathy announced a gift to the Capital Campaign in honor of Kenn by his friends, Willard and Anne Broom of Urbana, IL

Announcement of Election Results The Rector thanked all who stood for office. He announced that Grady Hedgespeth, Charlotte Murray, and Janet Vail had been elected to three-year terms. A second ballot was needed for the fourth Vestry member (one-year term). The Rector asked parishioners to vote for one of the following remaining nominees: Jane Byrne, Chuck Divine, or Jim Steed. Jim Steed won the one-year Vestry term. Maureen Shea won the Diocesan Delegate election.

Election of the Senior Warden The Nominating Committee submitted Cecilia Monahan for Senior Warden. It was moved, seconded, and approved to close the floor to additional nominations. Cecilia made remarks and then a motion to elect by acclamation was made, seconded and approved. Cecilia Monahan was elected Senior Warden.

Remarks by Retiring Junior Warden John Sedgewick Junior Warden John Sedgewick's report is on page 9 of the March 26, 2011 Annual Meeting & Report to the Parish. He discussed activities and areas which required maintenance and thanked the parish for the opportunity to be of service as Junior Warden.

Election of the Junior Warden The Nominating Committee submitted the name of Phil Guire for Junior Warden. It was moved, seconded, and approved to close the floor to additional nominations. Phil made remarks and then a motion to elect by acclamation was made and seconded, and approved. Phil Guire was elected Junior Warden.

Acknowledgements and Adjournment The Rector recognized out-going Task Force and Vestry committee co-chairs Bill Jordan and Heather Burneson (Governance Task Force), Amber Palmer (Membership Development), Bill Dickenson (Canvass), Karen Falk, Kate McFadden, Kristen Hartke, and Susan Sedgewick (Website Task Force); retiring pillar chairs Dave Johnson (Outreach), Kristie Kubista-Hovis (Parish Life), and Janet Lipscomb (Worship). He also recognized retiring Vestry members (Susan Thompson, Joe Calizo, Mary Lee Watts), wardens (Kenn Allen and John Sedgewick), and Treasurer (Kathryn Powers). He thanked chili preparers Nancy Corr, Rick Hayes, Kathryn Powers, Marilu Sherer, and Peter Sherer. Paul gave special thanks to Doris Burton for the annual report.

Rick Hayes announced the "bake-off" results. The 'Bronze Spoon' went Beth Hall for her cheesecake, the 'Silver Spoon' to David Evelyn for his gluten-free contribution and the 'Gold Spoon' to Martha Connor-Donnelly for her black-and-white cookie cups

There being no further business, the Rector offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Raiford Gaffney
Register

THE RECTOR'S "VIEW" OF THE PARISH

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

The annual *Rector's State of the Parish Address* has a rather stately ring. However, generally, I feel it sounds a bit pretentious in tone. Given that our parish is constituted by all of us (each of us an incredibly intricate human being with personal histories and memories, attitudes and intentions, perspectives and opinions, desires and needs, thus, together forming a community characterized by infinite multi-dimensionality and ineffable complexity), I think: How can one person define, at more than surface depth, the "state" (the shape and status, the condition and circumstance) of our common life? I don't believe one can or, at least, I don't believe that *I* can (though, yes, in years past, I've tried!). Hence, this year, I, looking back over nearly 14 years and ahead to the near future, offer a (well, *my*) "view" of us. Fundamentally, I am an existentialist, one ever given to questions of meaning, particularly involving issues of identity and destiny. Hence, I tend to ask: Who am I and where am I going? Writ large, pertaining to us, then, my questions are: Who are we and where are we going? What follows is a small slice of some of my current thinking, which I intend as descriptive (again, *my* view) and not as determinative (that is, something we must do). Rather, I ask that you, that we think about it.

Who Are We? A Few Historical Communal Self-Definitions: We are a people and a place...

- of "the holy activity."
- where we don't so much seek to answer our questions, but rather to question our answers.
- of Open Communion.
- where the only real certainty is ambiguity.
- of liturgical experimentation and innovation.
- where "liturgy", "the work of the people" (laity *and* clergy), is characteristic of all we are and do.

My primary working description: We are a pre-Niceneⁱ community immersed in the Enlightenmentⁱⁱ. What I mean is that we, in "welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journeyⁱⁱⁱ", are a non-doctrinal community. We employ no theological "litmus test" of belief to confirm (or conform) membership. Moreover, in our acknowledgement and engagement of life's fundamental tension (being individuals in community), we encourage all to exercise reason as a principal means of personal discernment (reason, thereby, surpassing, contra our Anglican heritage, scripture and tradition) in the act of making sense out of our existence/experience.

The 21st Century: Modern or Post-Modern? Some, identifying the modern epoch with the Enlightenment, thus, perceiving reason as the critical element in humankind's quest for progress, believe modernity persists. Others, post-modernists, question whether progress is an absolute (particularly in light of the failings of our institutions: ecclesial, educational, financial, governmental, and social) and, thus, view the late 20th century as the conclusion of the modern era.

I believe that historical movement is dynamic and fluid. Thus, I am careful not to make strict, overly-precise time and space demarcations of beginnings and endings. That said, I lean toward the latter view. We live in a post-modern, *therefore* a post-liberal world.

My Primary Point: What this may mean for us as a Christian community: I think that liberalism, as rooted in the Enlightenment, recognizes truth (including that of faith) through the lens of reason^{iv}. The *promise* of this methodology is its very rationality, which lends itself to achieving reasonable (reason-enabled) conformity/consistency between beliefs (theology) and actions (ethics) and the reasons (causes, motives) for those beliefs and actions. The *cost* arises from reason's necessary work in the search for truth of distinguishing (comparing and contrasting) competing and, sometimes, conflicting assertions; a defining (delimiting) act that lends itself to dyadic (binary and, potentially, either-or) thinking.

In terms of our functional education discipline, as an example of the outrageous cost outweighing the outrageous promise, imagine all the outcomes that might occur in a conversation amongst a Jew, a Muslim, and a Christian when the truth-claims of each faith tradition are declared (e.g., in response to the question, “Who is God?”^v). One possibility, among many, is that position statements would be made in triumphalist and universalist terms (i.e., each advocate in effect saying, “My position is the greatest [truest] and, thus, applies to [absorbs] all others”).

When I went on sabbatical^{vi}, viewing our world as “incontrovertibly pluralistic”, I, as a Christian, sought to converse with (and not convert) “the other” so to seek greater mutual understanding. From this perspective, which remains a defining aspect of my life, I perceive the (perhaps our) need to press beyond the dyadic limitations of liberalism to adopt a post-liberal frame of reference, one characterized by^{vii}:

- Kindness (generosity) that foregoes any need to claim universal truth and, thus, respects and honors other perspectives with an attitude of questing openness;
- Vagueness (ambiguity) that relinquishes the need to compare and contrast in ways that exclude;
- Steadiness that, embracing a new reformation (or redefinition of our Anglican *via media*), stands between relativism (that holds that no perspective is absolutely true, thus all views are of equivalent value) and exclusivism (that holds that one position is superior to all others), verily, stands between relativism and nihilism (that holds that there is no ground, objective or subjective, for any truth); and
- Faithfulness that trusts in a transcendent and immanent divine Word that reveals itself in intimate relation rather than through reasoned acceptance (or denial).

ⁱ**The First Council of Nicaea:** 325 C.E. assembly of Christian bishops in Nicaea (in present-day Turkey) convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine to attain church-wide consensus regarding the Christological issue of the relationship of Jesus to God and to devise a creed, a statement of fundamental Christian belief.

ⁱⁱ**The Age of Enlightenment (or Reason):** 18th century movement of European (initially largely French) intellectuals that, in focusing on human discernment through the power of reason, sought to transform society and to advance the attainment of knowledge. I submit that the Enlightenment was an outgrowth of a Protestant response to the Counter Reformation (which, as a Roman Catholic reaction to the Reformation, aimed at institutional reform that, via the Council of Trent [1534-1549], restated the fundamental tenets of Roman Catholicism and, thereby, rejected any compromise with Protestant theology and ethics).

ⁱⁱⁱFrom the *St. Mark’s Mission Statement*

^{iv}A principal expression of this epistemological mode is the historical-critical study of scripture, which investigates the origins of ancient texts so to understand the world/culture in which they were formed and framed.

^vImagine also many fractured exchanges about the national debt between Democratic and Republican ideologues, the former holding fiercely to the primary need to increase revenue and the latter, to the institution of no new taxes!

^{vi}July 2006-January 2007. The theme: *21st Century Evangelism: Conversation, Not Conversion*.

^{vii}My thinking is influenced by the works of **David Ford**, professor of divinity, University of Cambridge (U.K.); **Stanley Hauerwas**, professor of ethics, Duke Divinity School; **George Lindbeck**, America Lutheran theologian, ecumenist, and a “father” of post-liberal theology; and **Peter Ochs**, professor of modern Judaic studies, University of Virginia.

Eucharist Offerings March ’11 –March ’12

Year	Sunday Eucharist	Week-day Eucharist	Private Eucharist	Marriage	Burials
2009	104	21	16	4	2
2010	144 ⁷	42	8	5	4
2011	141	58	9	9	5

Year	Pledge units	Pledges/adults	Children Of pledging members	Visitors	Average Sunday Attendance	Baptized ² Members	Communicants in Good Standing ⁶
2008 ¹						830	
2009	362	534	137	233 + children	291	+31/-5= 856 ³	654 (536A*/128Y)
2010	379	559	142	399 +children	284	+28/-2= 882 ⁴	676 (541A/135Y)
2011	390	572	143	227 + children	319	+27/-7 = 902 ⁵	715 (572A/143Y)

¹ Included as a baseline

² Recorded in our official Parish Register via Baptism, Confirmation, or Letter of Transfer.

³ Baptism (23), Confirmation (2), Reception (1), Transfer (2)

⁴ Death (1), Transfer to another congregation (1)

⁵ Baptism (19), Confirmation (5), Transfer in (3); Death (5), Transfer out (2)

⁶ All baptized members who contribute time, talent, and money to support the life and mission of our community.

⁷ Reflects the establishment of a 3rd serve

*Adults/Youth

ASSISTANT RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT:

The Rev. R. Justi Schunior

Friends,

It has been almost eight months since I became your Assistant Rector. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve with you during this time. There is much that challenges me and sustains me in this community. And, I thank you all for your support through earthquake, hurricane, and just learning the ropes in this unique parish.

The following is a brief summary of my work here since July 1, 2011:

Worship & Preaching

- **Weekly services:** I assist our rector, The Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, with presiding, co-presiding, and preaching during our weekly worship services, including three services on Sunday and one service on Thursdays at noon.

- **Liturgy Planning Team:** I assist with planning our worship services as a member of the Liturgy Planning Team, which meets on a monthly basis. This includes my drafting of the 2011 Blessing of the Pets liturgy and planning a series of creation care liturgies that will begin in the fall of 2012

- **5 pm Sunday Service:** This third Sunday service entered its third year this past fall. On October 30, 2011, David Deutsch hosted the 5 pm service in his house and I, along with a committee of parishioners active in this service, led a discussion on what's working, not working, and what changes we might make in the future. While this is still a service targeted towards newcomers, there is a core congregation who thinks of this service as their time for regular Sunday worship. The contemplative nature of the service will be preserved, but we are making efforts to include attendees in the wider concerns of the parish. For example, Sunday announcements were added to the 5 pm bulletin. On February 19, 2012, I presided over a "Hearty Eucharist", a service that incorporated an abundant meal into the Eucharistic Prayer.

- **Street Church:** I volunteer regularly to serve as Presider at a weekly Eucharist for the homeless at Church of the Epiphany (G St., NW) in downtown DC.
- **Weekly Lectionary Group:** I meet with local clergy/laity every Tuesday morning to discuss the upcoming week's lectionary readings.

Teaching

As a newcomer to St. Mark's, I took the fall Life, Community, and Faith class. This spring I am teaching it on a team that includes the Rev. Susan Flanders, Joe Tarantolo, and Charlie Rupp.

Pastoral Care

- **Visitation:** I call on parishioners in the hospital and in their homes to provide pastoral support.
- **Counseling:** I meet with a number of parishioners to address concerns that affect their personal and spiritual life.
- **Pre-Marital Instruction:** I am currently working with two couples as they prepare for marriage in the coming year.

Newcomers

- I telephone newcomers to welcome them into the St. Mark's community and answer questions about our parish.
- I am currently working with our senior warden to reconvene a membership committee that would help attract, welcome, and incorporate newcomers in the parish.

Outreach

- **Outreach Board:** I am a member of the Outreach Board and attend monthly meetings. I seek new opportunities for community involvement. With the assistance and advice of the Rector and the Rev. Susan Flanders, I invited the Rev. Lionel Edmonds, co-founder of Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) to preach and present at a pub lunch on February 19, 2012. He and a lead organizer will work with St. Mark's to determine if there is parish interest in reestablishing our relationship with WIN.
- **Capitol Hill Group Ministry:** I am involved with various aspects of CHGM work here on Capitol Hill, including attending the monthly clergy breakfasts.
- **Green Lions:** I attend bi-weekly Green Lions meetings and work with community environmental groups to advocate for and support creation care in our parish and wider community.

Communications

I am working to establish a communications committee that will oversee advertising, marketing, and communications. The Endowment Board of St. Mark's granted me funds to overhaul our parish e-newsletter and social media presence. Together with a committee, we are on target to produce a new and more functional newsletter by spring 2012.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jeff Kempskie

The 2011-2012 music season has been a success. Progress continues to be made in a number of areas, from the selection of varied, appropriate, high-quality hymns and anthems to the strong participation in both the Chancel Choir and Boys & Girls Choir. The Music Studio has greatly increased in activity; area musicians continue request use of the nave as a performance venue.

Worship: The Director of Music attends monthly Worship Planning Team meetings to facilitate long-term planning and develop a sense of the themes of each service and to select music that is relevant to the readings and themes for each Sunday. In addition to regularly incorporating hymns from the African-American hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing II (a.k.a. LEVAS), an effort has been made this year to introduce some good quality hymns not only from the 1982 Hymnal but also from hymnals that have not been used at St. Mark's

before, thus expanding the congregation's repertoire. New service music (the Kyrie, Trisagion, Sanctus, & Fraction Anthem) from Enriching Our Worship, another hymn resource, has been incorporated into the Sunday morning services alternating with the use of better-known settings. Parishioners may have also noticed more frequent use of sequence hymns (ed., prior to and following the Gospel reading), plainchant settings of the psalms, and some percussion this year.

Chancel Choir: The Chancel Choir remains a very dedicated and regular presence at nearly every Sunday morning worship service (September-June). The group has learned a variety of new repertoire this year while also revisiting anthems that haven't been performed at St. Mark's in a number of years. The choir has maintained the practice of combining for the 11:15 service about once per month as a way of pursuing more challenging repertoire suitable to the larger group. A few members of the choir have also graciously offered to perform solos and duets on occasion.

Boys & Girls Choir: The Boys & Girls Choir continues to gain momentum under the direction of Nadine Hathaway, whose generous volunteering of time has made it possible for the group to rehearse at a time convenient for both parents and children. The choir started the year with a retreat in mid-September that included rehearsal time coupled with a variety of fun activities – not to mention eating pizza and ice cream – that got the group off to a good start. The ensemble has slowly added new members while retaining most singers from last year. One "good problem" was that the choir needed to move out of its old rehearsal space, the Music Studio, because the room had become too crowded.

Instruments: The organ and pianos are generally in fine shape with the notable exception of the parish hall piano. The 1959 Holtkamp organ required quite a bit of electrical work this year in addition to its regular tunings. The piano in the nave and those downstairs remain in good working order and are tuned regularly.

Music Studio: The St. Mark's Music Studio has been brought back to life this year. In November, Jeff Kempskie began offering piano lessons to both children and adults. In February, the studio gained voice teacher Kellie McHugh as well as guitarist Robert Hanson, both of whom are expected to expand their teaching and make good use of the Music Studio room.

Special Events: Two events ended of the formal music 'season' in June '11: both St. Mark's choirs offered a Choral Evensong service and The Washington Early Music Festival once again chose St. Mark's as a venue for numerous concerts. In November, several Chancel Choir members participated in the diocesan choir for the consecration of the bishop at the National Cathedral. In early December, the Chancel Choir, with the assistance of the Boys & Girls Choir, led an Advent Lessons & Carols service.

Coming: An exciting upcoming project involving the Chancel Choir includes two performances of Ike Sturm's 'Jazz Mass' at the end of April. The mass, which was written around 2007 and has never been performed in the Washington, D.C. metro area, offers a contemporary setting of the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Lord's Prayer, and Agnus Dei scored for jazz ensemble, string sextet, choir, and vocal soloist. A concert performance of the work will take place on the evening of April 28th (with the intent of reaching the larger community) and the mass will be fully incorporated into a combined 10am service on the morning of April 29th.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Marcella Gillis

Since joining the St. Mark's community as the new Director of Youth Ministries this past August, I've felt wonderfully in awe of this church and her inhabitants. My first six months here have been fascinating and exhilarating, and I am continually impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication, and passion exhibited by this congregation. I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to work in such an active and dynamic faith community.

I am also grateful to have inherited a well-established programmatic and organizational framework from my predecessors, Sian Jones and Megan Courtney, which has provided an indispensable baseline for planning activities. With enthusiastic support from parents, parishioners and clergy, we have continued with our traditional activities and built youth presence in all areas of the St. Mark's community, as well as having worked to expand our reach and explore new areas for growth and enrichment.

Autumn and winter have been spent observing and learning systems, as well as engaging in ongoing asset and needs-based assessment of the youth and family program. I have been able to experience St. Mark's through a variety of lenses: the Life, Community and Faith course, the Christian Education retreat, youth activities, meetings with various parish groups, as well as building relationships within and beyond St. Mark's. I have spent time participating in events and trainings within the Diocese of Washington, as well as networking with local and international non-profits and service organizations including the Anacostia Watershed Society, Sustainable Harvest International, Samaritan Ministries, and Capitol Hill Group Ministries, among others.

I am greatly anticipating all that is to come in this next year, and I would like to engage you all in a thoughtful exploration of what "youth ministry" means at St. Mark's. I would like to see a deliberative shift away from "events" and "programs" and towards meaningful religious growth among and between youth *and* adults at St. Mark's. My hope is that together we can create a culture of youth ministry in which we all participate; a reciprocal relationship in which parishioners of all ages are both encouraged and empowered to nurture each other in our communal and individual faith journeys.

May the call to youth ministry be something to which we keep our ears tuned and our hearts open .

Worship

Family Service: This year we have continued to offer a monthly family Eucharist at the 9 o'clock service on the second Sunday, providing children and youth with the opportunity to read the liturgical lessons, distribute bulletins as beadles, lay serve, and participate in a children's reflection following the gospel.

Children's Chapel: We have continued to offer Children's Chapel liturgy under the rotating leadership of Paul Abernathy, Justi Schunior, seminarians Jude Harmon and Kristen Hawley, and Marcella Gillis. Meeting every Sunday at 9, this 'kid-friendly' service is designed for children ages two through six and encourages participation, ritual, shared prayer, and singing.

Christmas Pageant: This December we celebrated our traditional Christmas pageant, which was organized and produced under the excellent leadership of our 'Mother-of-Mary', Mary Louise Wagner. With assistance of a dedicated cadre of helpful parents, nearly 70 children were able to participate this year.

Christian Education/Sunday School

The Youth and Family Ministry program has received tremendous ongoing support from Christian Ed Co-Chairs, with regular meetings and check-ins. In terms of Sunday School, we have continued with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the younger set, as well as a curriculum for middle school and high school that includes reflection, sharing, art, and Bible study. These classes are implemented by our dedicated teachers, whose time and effort is invaluable in the implementation of our Sunday religious education for children and youth.

Summer Sunday School: Organized by Megan Courtney and implemented by a dedicated group of volunteers, we offered special Sunday school classes during the summer hiatus, based on an environmental justice themed curriculum.

Middle School & High School

Middle school activities this year focused on teambuilding, group trust, and cohesion. High school activities focused on deepening relationships and self-reflection. It has been a pleasure working with both of these very different but equally interesting groups.

Middle School Day Retreat: 13 middle schoolers and 3 parents participated in an afternoon teambuilding retreat at the ropes course at Butler School, facilitated by GO! Adventures

High School Lock-In: 12 youth and 4 adults participated in a viewing and discussion of “The Breakfast Club” and a series of games and activities through the evening.

Cathedral Lock-In: 9 youth and 2 adults went to the annual lock in at the National Cathedral, facilitated by the Diocese of Washington.

Holiday Get together for Middle School families: Several families attended a casual Christmas event hosted in collaboration with the Christian Education Pillar.

Outreach

Our outreach programming followed in line with Megan Courtney’s commitment to monthly outreach activities, which has included 4 events since the beginning of the school year. Currently, I am looking forward to both expanding and deepening our involvement in community outreach and working together to strengthen our commitment to engage youth in social justice and community service. I hope to support our relationship with the Anacostia Watershed Society, continue our work with SHI in Honduras, and actively search for new opportunities within St. Mark’s as well as the wider community.

Samaritan Ministries Help-the-Homeless Mini Walk (35 walkers, \$1,150 raised)

CHGM Thanksgiving Basket Drive (24 baskets donated)

Cookie Decorating to Shelter Ministries Dinner

Christmas Cards to Sibley Hospital Patients (cards created in Sunday School).

Family & Parish Life Events

The following is a list of various events that were held over the course of the year. These activities are largely made possible by the generosity of time and spirit of parents and other volunteers.

Easter Activities – Egg Hunt, Children’s Activities

Shrine Mont – Childcare for young children, activities for youth and teenagers including hiking, and the design and presentation of a play.

Parish Picnic – Children’s Carnival Games, face painting, water balloon toss, etc.

Back to School Brunch – Held during coffee hour in September for families to catch up and hear about upcoming events.

Capital Campaign Kickoff Party – Organized by Megan Courtney

Brunch for Returning College Students – Organized in January for our college students who were home for vacation.

Annual Family Ski Trip – A weekend trip for families (et al.) in West Virginia’s Canaan Valley.

No Sunday School Activities – Organized and led by adult volunteers on Sundays with no Sunday School

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT

Cecilia Monahan

This past Vestry year, from March 2011 to March 2012, my first as Senior Warden, was filled with all manner of discussion, listening, and decision-making, much of it regarding the shaping of our future through our current Vision 2020 Capital Campaign and plans for the parish hall renovation.

Together, the Vestry:

- **Hosted the parish retreat at Shrine Mont.** The campaign and renovation helped to inform the theme for our June parish retreat at Shrine Mont, with attendees exploring together the concept of being in community in a time of change, and sharing stories of change in their own lives. Charlotte Murray, Michele Rivard, Jim Steed, and Caitie Whelan made up the fabulous and inventive Shrine Mont team.
- **Approved each step in the Capital Campaign process,** including the launch of campaign fundraising; the development of concept designs; and the exploration of financing options. In December, when the proposed renovation plan went well over budget, the Vestry tasked the Steering Committee to seek alternative designs to bring the costs back into alignment with our budget. In February, the committee did

so, and the Vestry, originally scheduled to vote at that meeting, will now vote on the plan in late March, after the community has had the opportunity to see and to comment on the design options.

Ultimately, responsibility for decisions regarding the capital campaign rests with the Vestry. We must listen to what the parish and Steering Committee are saying, and then discern, as a body, the best way to move forward. The Steering Committee, and especially co-chairs, Kenn Allen and Mike Townsend, and architect-member Ed Corr, has worked harder than I would have thought possible on this project and on presenting it to the Vestry, and there is no end to my thanks to them.

- **Approved the Resolution on Community Engagement** which came out of the work of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee and which seeks to put into action St. Mark's mission to "engage boldly in the struggles of life" by reaching out to help fill unmet needs in neighborhoods near our church. A related 'Space Use Policy', working out the specifics of our engagement, is nearing completion. Jane Rutherford and Sally Garr Brodhead have worked hard on both documents.
- **Approved the charter of the St. Mark's Meditation Center**, formally making the existing Center a program of the church.
- **As Senior Warden, I held Pillar Council Meetings**, as per the recommendation of the Governance Task Force, in September and January, with another scheduled for June. All pillar chairs were invited to join discussions to foster understanding and coordination among programs and work together to solve common problems. I also attended Finance Committee and Endowment Board meetings.

My first year as Senior Warden has been rewarding, challenging, at times frustrating, and at all times an opportunity for growth. I feel deeply connected to St. Mark's and its community, and I feel enormously privileged to work with our Rector, Paul Abernathy, whose partnership, counsel, and humor I am thankful for daily. I have also been working with a Vestry that is smart, hard-working, and insightful, and which plays well with others. Many thanks to you all: "graduating" third-year members Ed Corr, Jim Steed, and Vicki Street; second-year members, Bill Dickinson, Rick Hayes, and Marilu Sherer; and first-year members, Grady Hedgespeth, Charlotte Murray and Janet Vail. Thanks also to our fabulous new Assistant Rector, Justi Schunior; the talented officers of the Vestry: Crane Miller, Treasurer; Yann van Geertruyden, Assistant Treasurer; Karlyn Stanley, Counsel; Mary Cooper, Register; and all the supportive staff of St. Mark's.

The coming year brings great excitement and a lot of mess. We project breaking ground in late fall and our community will face a loss of space and challenges to our regular routine. Phil Guire and I will be working hard to handle the transition as smoothly as we can, but I ask for your patience with the process. Keeping in mind a vision of what St. Mark's will look like and feel like after the renovation is complete, and knowing how well it will serve our staff, is what will help keep me going. I hope that you, too, will keep that vision in mind during the happy chaos to come.

JUNIOR WARDEN/MANCIPLE/FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Phil Guire

It has been a year of learning for me as a Junior Warden. I came with very little institutional knowledge and a very limited understanding of the culture of St. Marks. While the position of Junior Warden has defined roles, it can be molded to fit the interest and ability of the person who holds the office. Most of my first term has been spent working with the Vision2020 Capital Campaign Steering Committee. The process that afforded me has been invaluable. We have looked at the building with a critical eye.

While the Fabric Committee's work came in under budget this past year, that is not a mistake that I would make again. Whatever the outcome of the Vestry decision on the plan for renovation, there remains a great deal of maintenance (regular and deferred) that still needs attention. Once a decision on the renova-

tion is made, a list of items not addressed by that work will be compiled and be the focus of my continued service and, I hope, those who follow. I feel confident that we have an excellent handle on the deferred maintenance items that will need to be addressed.

I need to thank Manciple Coordinator Susan Sedgewick's team of "sous" manciples. This year Norm Wolfe, Rick Warfield, and the St Mark's Players have gladly performed tasks from repairing vacuum cleaners, changing nave light bulbs, fixing Sunday school furniture, installing coat hooks, assessing the extent of the effort required to weatherize our doors to improving processes associated with the Chapel Columbarium.

My transition into this job was made easy by the nuts and bolts explanation by the previous Jr. Warden, John Sedgewick. I also need to thank Susan Sedgewick, my Manciple, for helping me stay on top of potential issues and addressing many small improvements that improve the quality of life for the members of St. Mark's. Lastly, I need to thank Norm Wolfe who has all of the "man skills" I lack and has dealt with many issues that I couldn't.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Crane Miller

Overview: A 2011 year-end surge in income (beginning in November and erupting in December) led to \$911,308 in total income, and total expenses of \$845,250. December is "traditionally" the month when we have a large increase in pledge payments for tax and other reasons. 2011's income was unexpectedly high, and very welcome!

However, total pledges for 2012 are unexpectedly low and, if not increased during the year, we anticipate we'll need to dip into our parish reserves to pay our expenses. Roughly 92% of our parish income derives from pledge payments, a fact that leaves us quite vulnerable when total pledge payments diminish.

Audit: Our 2009 and 2010 audits by John Angevine, CPA, show that our books are in order. The audits were conducted in accordance with the principles of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington.

The 2012 Budget: The Vestry approved an \$881,000 budget for 2012 at its February 26, 2012 meeting.

Our clergy and staff are our greatest budgeted expense, \$554,026 or 62.9% of the total. The budget for building and administrative expenses is \$288,620 or 32.8% of the total.

Last June we called The Reverend Rebecca Justice (Justi) Schunior to be our Assistant Rector. Justi joined us on July 1, 2011 and her actual 2011 salary and related expenses reflect her initial six-month period with us. The 2012 budget contains her annual salary, housing allowance, social security, pension and insurance expenses and a discretionary sum for church-related expenses.

Finance Committee (Crane Miller, Chair): I especially want to acknowledge and thank the Finance Committee for their assistance and wise counsel in the development of the budget. They are: Kathryn Powers, Christi Anthony, Linda Ewald, and David Willson; Vestry members: Bill Dickinson, Vicki Street, and Janet Vail; the Rector, Cecilia Monahan, Senior Warden, and Phil Guire, Junior Warden, and Yann van Geertruyden, Assistant Treasurer, ex officio. Kathryn Powers hosted and fed the Committee at almost all of our meetings and has our gustatory thanks and appreciation!

Summary Report: The accompanying report is a summary of the full report given to and approved by the Vestry. (Full reports are printed and available from the treasurer. One is attached to the file copy of this document).

2011 Annual Report and 2012 Budget Summary

2011 INCOME				
	Item	'12 BUDGET		2011 BUDGET
Actual			% Change	
\$ 834,247.83	Pledges - 2011, Past, Next Year	\$781,750.00	-1%	\$ 793,000.00
\$ 49,744.47	Plate	\$ 40,000.00	21%	\$ 33,000.00
\$ 15,373.90	Building Use	\$ 8,000.00	0%	\$ 8,000.00
\$ 7,720.00	Organization Acc'ts, incl. Pub, Players + PC&CC	\$ 13,400.00	17%	\$ 11,500.00
\$ --	Parish Reserve Transfer	\$ 32,363.00	505%	\$ 5,349.00
\$ 2,223.58	Bank Interest	\$ 1,800.00	0%	\$ 1,800.00
\$ 1,998.00	Misc. Inc., Spec'l Offerings, Wedding Fees	\$ 3,700.00	0%	\$ 3,700.00
Total	\$ 911,307.78	\$ 881,013.00		\$ 856,349.00
2011 EXPENSE				
	Item	2012 BUDGET		2011 BUDGET
Actual				
\$ 462,906.48	Payroll, taxes, clergy & staff pensions, insurance	\$ 495,805.00	7%	\$ 463,909.00
\$ 26,727.73	Parish programs	\$ 32,588.00	-17%	\$ 39,420.00
\$ 24,715.86	Outreach, incl. VTS	\$ 24,000.00	-5%	\$ 25,200.00
\$ 40,000.00	Diocesan pledge	\$ 40,000.00	0%	\$ 40,000.00
\$ 85,701.71	Administrative	\$ 79,120.00	3%	\$ 76,820.00
\$ 205,198.10	Building-related	\$ 209,500.00	-1%	\$ 211,000.00
Total	\$845,249.88	\$ 881,013.00		\$ 856,349.00
NET INCREASE IN GENERAL FUND				
YTD Income [\$911,307.78] - YTD expense [\$845,249.88] + 1/1/2011 carryover balance [\$149,761.63] = \$215,819.88				
Money in operating account as of 31 Dec '11		\$ 911,307.78		
Money in designated funds as of 31 Dec '11		\$ 491,613.26		
Money in money market & CD's		\$ 252,419.30		
Checking Cash		\$ 209,125.11		



Woodcut by David Evelyn

ENDOWMENT REPORT

Kenn Allen and Kathryn Powers, Co-chairs

The St. Mark's Endowment Board was created by a Vestry-approved charter in 2002 to allow parishioners to contribute to the long-term needs of the church through donations to several funds (see descriptions below).

The funds support individual projects within specific areas of church life but do not duplicate or supplement the operating budget which is primarily supported by annual pledges. The endowment is managed by a board, each of whose members, approved by the Vestry, has a specific function.

Contributions and bequests are presently invested in the Vanguard STAR Fund (VGSTX), which follows a balanced investment approach by placing 63% of its assets in common stocks, 25% in bonds, and 12% in cash. With the ongoing volatility of the stock market, the Board re-examined the STAR Fund on multiple occasions in 2011 and concluded that the fund remains a low-cost, well-managed investment that is appropriate for the Endowment's moderate to conservative investment goals.

In 2009, the Vestry approved a new fund disbursement computation. Beginning in 2010, a maximum of 5% of the average value of the Endowment, as calculated from the quarterly values over the previous three years, may be distributed annually. This method is used by the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, the most commonly used in the non-profit world. The change has allowed the Board to approve several important projects since 2010 that would not have been possible under the old system.

Description of Funds and 2011 Disbursements and Activities

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the rectory, this Fund provides for improvements to church facilities. In March 2011, the Endowment Board agreed to support the establishment of a Green Team. Because the focus of the Green Team is behavioral as well as building related, the Endowment agreed to fund this initiative with \$3000 from the General Fund (see below) and \$4000 from the Building Preservation Fund.

Hoitsma Fund: Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this Fund provides for long-term improvements to our buildings that are not covered by the operating budget. In 2011, \$2200 from the sale of columbarium units was added to the Hoitsma Fund as partial repayment of the loan made by the Fund for their construction.

General Fund: This Fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the Church. In 2011 the Board approved \$3000 to support the Green Team initiative (see Building Preservation Fund) and \$3000 for the improvement of the St. Mark's website and newsletter. The latter initiative was presented and will be administered by the Assistant Rector.

Verna Dozier Fund: Initially set up in 2000 from funds donated, but not needed, for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory, this Fund provides scholarships for college-bound seniors at Dunbar High School who aspire to become teachers. Among other criteria for selection, students submit essays on the importance of teaching. Awardees are selected by the DC College Access Program. In 2011 contributions valuing \$1440 were added to the Dozier fund. The Board approved two \$1500 scholarships.

Craighill Dance Fund: Set up in 1984 by a gift from the Craighill family to support the St. Mark's Dance Studio, the Fund also includes the Beryl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for promising dancers. Projects are formulated by the Vestry-approved Dance Board. In August 2011, \$4993 was granted to the Dance Board for scholarships to studio classes.

Arts Fund: This Fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. No requests or disbursements were made in 2011.

Holtkamp Organ Fund: Set up in 1998, this Fund provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. Fund disbursements can be requested by the Music Director. No requests or disbursements were made in 2011.

Other Special Purpose Funds: Education, Outreach, and Worship Funds are authorized in the 2002 Charter. They have not received any funds to date.

If you have questions about any of the St. Mark's Endowment Funds, or you would like to make a contribution, please contact one of the Board Members:

Kenn Allen (Co-Chair) – 202-543-3054

Kathryn Powers (Co-Chair) – 202-544-7777

Beth Mahood (Treasurer) – 703-622-7293

Dave Wellman (Architect) – 202-364-0760

Mike Townsend (Investment) – 703-642-3568

St. Mark's Endowment Funds
Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2011
2011 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

	General			Arts		Building Preservation		Holtkamp Capital Improvement		Holtkamp Organ Maintenance		Dozier Education		Craighill Dance		Total
A	<u>Beginning Fund Value 12-31-2010</u>	\$ 126,019	\$ 47,346	\$ 520,130	\$ 101,175	\$ 22,522	\$ 39,793	\$ 121,725	\$ 978,710							
B	<u>Plus: New Donations During 2011</u>															
	2/3/2011 Al Rollins						100		100							100
	2/3/2011 Stacey Hahn Ruff & Joseph Ruff						100		100							100
	6/28/2011 Jan Hoffman's 90th Birthday gifts						1,240		1,240							1,240
	8/8/2011 Repay loan - columbarium subtotal							1,440								1,440
C	<u>(Minus): Disbursements in 2011</u>															
	3/7/2011 Green Team established	(3,000)		(4,000)												(7,000)
	5/25/2011 Musa Hunter - scholarship (Dunbar HS & DCCAP)						(1,500)		(1,500)							(1,500)
	8/19/2011 Shandale Whitby - scholarship (Dunbar HS & DCCAP)						(1,500)		(1,500)							(1,500)
	8/19/2011 Scholarships to studio classes - Various															(4,993)
	12/9/2011 Just! - website & newsletter subtotal	(3,000)						(3,000)								(3,000)
D	<u>Plus or (Minus): YTD Change in Market Value since Dec 31, 2010</u>	1,035	365	4,088	923	174	367	636	7,588							7,588
	memo - market gain as percent of beginning balance	0.82%	0.77%	0.79%	0.91%	0.77%	0.92%	0.52%	0.79%							0.79%
E	<u>Current Fund Value 12-31-11</u>	\$121,054	\$47,711	\$520,218	\$104,298	\$22,696	\$38,600	\$117,368	\$971,945							
	MEMO ONLY: Calculation of what can be spent in 2011:															
	3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of Dec 31, 2010 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)	115,993	39,694	463,696	96,593	19,260	33,650	112,462	881,348							
	2011 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2011 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average)	5,800	1,985	23,185	4,830	963	1,683	5,623	44,067							
	PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009															
	PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010	247	3,113	0	863	968	1,689	1,183	3,113							
	TOTAL 2011 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2011	6,047	7,152	23,185	5,693	1,931	3,372	6,806	54,184							
	Year to date Spent (see above)	(6,000)	0	(4,000)	0	0	(3,000)	(4,993)	(17,983)							
	Available to spend as of 12-31-11	\$ 47	\$ 7,152	\$ 19,185	\$ 5,693	\$ 1,931	\$ 372	\$ 1,813	\$ 36,191							

LOANS DUE TO THE ENDOWMENT:
 transaction #1 Due From St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account - interest free loan
 transaction #2 (To be repaid as money is collected from Columbarium sales.)

8/8/2011 NOTE: Board is to initiate requests for transfer annually or as needed
 11/30/2011 Balance Due from St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account

25,000
 7,300
 32,300
 (2,200)
 30,100

Major Vestry, Senior Warden, or Rector Actions:

March 2010 – January 2011

Key: RA: Rector’s Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action

Date of action are listed by month-year (0310 = March, 2010)

VA0310	Election of Offices: Kathryn Powers as Treasurer; Raiford Gaffney as Register; Norm Wolfe as Manciple; Maureen Shea as Alternate Delegate; and Michael Knipe as Legal Counsel
VA0310	Approved: 2010 Housing Allowances for Paul Abernathy & Susan Pinkerton
VA0310	Approved: Fund-Raising Request for Haiti by parishioner Jessica Sauer.
RA0410	The Rector proposed an interim policy on oral announcements on Sunday mornings and written announcements in the bulletin.
VA0510	Approved: Fund-Raising Request for Samaritan Ministries.
VA0510	Approved: the elevation of Susan Pinkerton from Assistant to Associate Rector.
SWA0510	Approved: Scilla Adams to organize and manage advisory councils.
VA0510	Approved: extended terms of Penny Hansen, David Willson, Jon Edwards, and Will Long (Endowment Board) until July 2011.
SWA0510	Endowment funding for \$6000 was transferred for development of the website.
SWA0510	\$3100 unspent from 2008 grant to the St. Mark’s Concert Series was returned to Endowment: the money will remain available for future requests related to the Arts.
VA0510	Approved: in-kind contribution of St. Mark’s space for the 5th Washington Early Music Festival in June; waived the requirement that they secure their own insurance.
VA0610	Approved: Outreach Fundraising Request for a one-time, two-week long collection to buy food store cards.
VA0710	Authorized: feasibility study to determine the level of support in the parish for a capital campaign. Work to begin in August with a \$25,000 line of credit through the Diocese of Washington
RA0910	Authorized : Paul Abernathy and Kenn Allen to secure a process consultant to assist in developing a new letter of agreement and position description for Paul Abernathy.
VA1010	Approved: Beth Mahood as Member and Treasurer of the Endowment Board.
RA1010	Endorsed: Otis Gaddis for Candidacy to Holy Orders in the Diocese of Washington.
SWA1010	Approved: acceptance of a special offering of an anonymous parishioner for renovation of the wrought iron fence surrounding the church.
VA1110	Adopted: Diocese’s “80/60 Coverage Health Insurance” for all employees.
SWA1110	Endorsed: a capital campaign in the fall of 2011.
SWA1110	The sense of the Vestry: we do not intend to renovate Baxter House as part of the capital campaign.
SWA1110	Agreed: to sell Baxter House as part of the capital campaign.
VA1210	Thanked Governance Tax Force for their excellent work and accepted their report.
VA1210	Approved: Outreach Alternative Gift Fair fundraising event (e-vote)
VA1210	Approved: an invitation to the parish to contribute to a purse to be sent to Erasmus Darwin House in memory of Dr. Hazel Baker (e-vote) of Lichfield Cathedral
VA1210	Approved: Outreach Mite Box Project during Lent 2011 event (e-vote)

VA0111	Approved: 2011 Housing Allowances for Paul Abernathy.
SWA0111	Approved: anonymous gift of \$54,000 to replenish the Penniman Fund to fully fund (1) the second Life, Community, and Faith (LCF) weekend retreat costs of room and board for all LCF class members and leaders; and (2) room and board retreat costs for all Sunday School teachers who attend the annual Christian Education January, 2011 retreat.
VA0111	Approved: Middle East Working Group Charter.
SWA0111	Approved: Charter for the Marketing and Communications Committee.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES /TASK FORCES OF THE VESTRY

Membership Development *Chair open; no report*

Race and Reconciliation *Loretta Veney, Leon Cover, Peter Sherer, Co-Chairs*

In the past year, the Race and Reconciliation Committee continued its task of planning and implementing activities to engage our community in the ongoing work of raising individual and communal consciousness about race and to create and sustain a parish environment of inclusive hospitality.

Building on the work from previous years, the co-chairs focused on creating a worship service that examined “white privilege” for both the 9:00 and 11:15 services. The services included special musical selections such as “We Shall Overcome” and a performance to Michael Jackson’s, “Man in the Mirror” by members of the Dance Studio. To build on this thought-provoking service, famous quotes regarding diversity by international civil rights leaders were recited during the Prayers of the People. During the sermon, several parishioners from different ethnic traditions shared stories of how they had received either undeserved favorable treatment or underserved unfavorable treatment based on their ethnicity. The reaction from the congregation was strong and positive. Based on the comments from the parish, the Worship Planning Team agreed to make the service an annual event.

In the committee’s effort to create more activities to raise communal consciousness, the co-chairs designed a six-part class, “Race: The Class.” However, there were not enough enrollees and the holidays cut short the marketing effort (the course will be offered in the fall of 2012.) The material in the class builds on the successful work done by the consultants who worked with the committee two years ago.

The past year was challenging for the committee but successful for the community and we look forward to continuing to serve St. Mark’s in this capacity.

Elders *Bruce Sherman, Betsy Athey, Co-Chairs*

The Elders include all former Wardens and former Christian Ed directors. Members of the group meet upon request of the rector or a warden. This year, the Elders met in June for the installation of the outgoing wardens, Kenn Allen and John Sedgewick, as their terms ended at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

2011 Garden Committee, *Ben Schaibly, chair*

The Garden Committee met four Saturdays in 2011 which were working meetings with typically 2-3 volunteers. The committee worked on the gardens for approximately 20 hours during the course of the gardening season, March through October, inclusive. In addition, various individual members have worked independently from time to time to augment our organized efforts. *Most notably, Gail Kelly really kept the summer weeds in check and planted a good bit of the effective Pachysandra ground cover.*

Our able volunteers include Ryan Velasco, Rachael Lammers, Gail Kelly, Nancy Lightel, Terry Adlhock, Jeffrey Hunter. Others who have worked to improve the gardens include Liz Layton, Beryl Mahoney-Lillaston, Linda Huntington, and Mary Flowers. I profusely apologize for anyone I may have left out.

Garden tasks included weeding, pruning, trimming, edging and mulching. We made some progress replacing bare garden areas with well-respected but hardy perennial ground covers, including Epimedium (aka, 'Bishop's Hat'), Ferns (Japanese Painted), and Pachysandra. This helps prevent opportunistic weeds.

Our biggest transplant project involved splitting and moving some of the yellow 'Sum and Substance' Hostas to the opposite side of the garden. There are many similar opportunities which could greatly enhance our gardens.

There were some problems in the early spring, with the underground watering system, which were resolved. Special thanks go to Phil Guire and Terry Adlhock for the repairs and to Terry for administering the system.

St. Marks is blessed with very large, beautiful and well-planned gardens, in both its courtyard and 3rd Street gardens. They hold many large, maturing trees and shrubs which require a great deal of maintenance in addition to the more mundane garden chores such as mulching and pulling weeds. The majority of volunteers are civic-minded friends of, but not all members of, St. Marks. Each of us might consider joining hands in community to work at least one half day in the coming year, to keep our gardens looking optimal.

As I have undergone carpal tunnel surgery and am suffering chronic side-effects from that, it would be best to identify and recruit a new chair to spearhead additional improvements to the St. Marks gardens.

Green Lions *Jane Rutherford and Pamela Blumgart*

Initial participants: Christina Herman, Sis McKay, Linda Huntington, Therese Dorau, The Reverend Justi Schunior, Jane Rutherford, Clif Grandy, Pamela Blumgart, and Betsy Agle

History: Following in the footsteps of those who led two earlier attempts to rally St. Mark's around environmental issues, a group of parishioners who took the "God's Creation" class in spring 2011 began taking steps to revive the Green Lions. The interest in becoming serious about environmental issues that emerged from the survey conducted early in the process of developing plans to renovate our space encouraged them and they were excited by the possibilities of what committed members of the parish could accomplish.

Beginning on October 4, 2012, a small group has been working to organize St. Mark's commitment to becoming better environmental stewards. We look forward to having more parishioners join us; please come to our April 14 retreat to help us chart our path.

Activities: The Green Lions have met twice a month on Sundays after pub lunch to get the group up and running. Looking ahead, we hope to plan activities and education events that take an active approach to preserving the environment, participate in worship activities that acknowledge God's creation, and support St. Mark's efforts to be a greener parish.

Areas of focus:

Preparing a charter for vestry approval

Planning a retreat to assess interest and focus the group's efforts, to be held Saturday, April 14, and led by Julie Gabrielli, a leading green building expert.

Worship participation

Recommendations to the Vision 2020 Steering Committee re: green building features

Caregivers, Linda Ewald, Chair

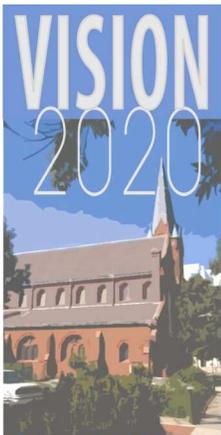
Caregivers provide assistance in the form of calls, visits, prayers, soup, transportation, cards, and equipment for many St. Mark's parishioners and their families. Since all of us can be caregivers, many of us do this quietly and without fanfare.

The support group for caregivers of ill family members continues on the second and fourth Mondays of every month under the leadership of Mary Welker and Suella Henn. Laying-on-of-hands is available the first and third Sundays each month at both services. There are eight Lay Eucharistic Ministers who can bring communion to parishioners in their homes to augment the ministry of Paul and Justi.

This year we celebrated the life and death of seven people: Peggy Pecore, Mary Lacey Nohrden, Paul Long, Ray Lacey, Tom Taylor (son of Arnie & Lil Taylor), Jim Adams, and Lael Steagall. Many of you helped during the final illnesses of those people, or assisted with the service at St. Mark's. Thank you.

Vision 2020, Kenn Allen and Mike Townsend, Co-Chairs

Steering Committee: Paul Abernathy, Doris Burton, Ed Corr, Linda Ewald, Phil Guire, Cecilia Monahan, and Justi Schunior



More than two years ago, St. Mark's began exploring the idea of renovating and expanding the Parish Hall to make our space more inviting, useful, and efficient. We undertook exhaustive studies of the options available; captured more than 1,000 dreams from parishioners of how the space could be used; analyzed the feasibility of raising the money to support the project; and began considering design options. The path from the beginning of this process to where we are today has been anything but a straight line. We have had highs and lows, setbacks and triumphs. But we believe we are on the cusp of constructing new space that will benefit the St. Mark's community and the community around us far into the future. This report provides an update on what has transpired since the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**BOLDLY ENGAGING IN
IN OUR FUTURE**

The Vision: In 2010 and the early part of 2011, we completed a process of examining what we wanted out of this project. That process led us to identify the following goals for any renovation and/or expansion plan:

- To preserve our historic property, while renewing our existing space, enhancing our mission, and providing for the future of our community
- To implement sustainable systems throughout our facilities, demonstrating our respect for the world in which we live, and upholding our commitment to sustainability as a core value
- To make our spaces more welcoming, accessible and available to our members, guests and the needs of our community
- To create additional space for our programs, with the flexibility to meet currently known and unforeseen future needs, enabling us to better realize our dreams
- To strengthen our engagement with and commitment to the community and the world around us
- To provide our staff with functional, pleasant work space where all are in one location, easily accessible to our community and the public, safe and secure, and which integrates the staff more fully into the daily workings of the church.

Those principles have driven our design work. Over the past six months, the reality of the financial cost to realize these goals has meant that we have had to make hard choices about what is feasible for us actually to accomplish. But, as we reach the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Steering Committee believes that we have found an affordable plan that will take us a significant way to achieving these goals.

The Design: We began serious design work in spring 2011, with an outstanding team of consultants: Bonstra/Haresign as our architect; Monarc Construction as our pre-construction contractor; and Alex Berley of E&G Group as our project manager. The original design was to include a new second floor in the Parish Hall, an expanded Undercroft that includes classrooms and meeting space beneath the Parish Hall, and a renovated kitchen, foyer, vesting room, and sacristy. We took this plan to the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission on Fine Arts, both of which had to approve the project because of the historic nature of our buildings and their proximity to federal property. We secured approval for our design in the summer.

As work progressed, however, it became clear that our dreams were bigger than our budget, and it was decided to eliminate the fully-finished Undercroft beneath the Parish Hall, and instead, dig out that space but leave it unfinished, making it easier to be finished in the future.

The Capital Campaign: In September 2011, the Vestry authorized the launching of a capital campaign to raise funds for the project. The campaign kicked off with a spectacular gala in the Nave, an hilarious and entertaining night featuring the return of the St. Mark's Follies. At the end of the evening's festivities, we were thrilled to announce that more than \$1 million had already been raised. By the time the campaign was complete in early 2012, more than \$1.71 million had been pledged by more than 220 members of the community. It is a tremendous demonstration of the support and enthusiasm for the project.

The Setback: Unfortunately, the end of 2011 also brought disappointment. The Steering Committee was dismayed to find that the new round of project pricing, based on much-improved design drawings, had resulted in an increase in the cost of the project of more than \$1 million. At its December 2011 meeting, the Vestry directed the Steering Committee to explore three alternatives: the renovation of Baxter House, the construction of a new Undercroft only; and the construction of only a new second floor. The Vestry asked for a progress report by its February meeting.

The Alternatives: The Steering Committee worked with its consultants to examine the three alternatives, with the following results:

- *Baxter House renovation* – Any renovation of Baxter House would result in *less* space (because of the need to install a second set of stairs and an elevator to meet code requirements) and would be extremely costly. It would also require a zoning variance, a process that would be lengthy, expensive and without guarantee of success. For these reasons, the committee does not recommend proceeding with this idea.
- *Build only an Undercroft under the Parish Hall* – Our architect produced a design that would fit all of our office space into the Undercroft, but without rooms to replace the Penniman and Gregory Rooms, currently located in Baxter House, and without any renovation to the foyer and entryway. The option has a cost of about \$2.3 million, meaning that we would have some money left over for other upgrades, such as renovating the kitchen. The committee believes this is a “second choice” because we lose space and because locating our staff in a basement seems, at best, unkind.
- *Build only a second floor* – Our preferred option would, for a cost of slightly more than \$3.6 million, include a new second floor above the Parish Hall, where the staff would be located. We would also relocate the elevator and stairs, allowing for a redesigned foyer, vesting room, and sacristy. The kitchen would be renovated and the pub moved adjacent to the kitchen. There would be space for two additional classrooms in the Undercroft, beneath the foyer, but the space beneath the Parish Hall would not be dug out.

All of the designs, which were presented to the Vestry on February 26, 2012, include sustainable features, including the installation of solar panels on the rear roof of the redesigned Parish Hall. We are working closely with the Green Lions to explore additional options, including the use of geothermal technology.

Financing: The required \$3.6 million for the project would come from a combination of pledge payments (more than \$1.7 million), proceeds from the sale of Baxter House (an estimated \$1.2 million) and financing from a bank, in the form of either a line of credit or a mortgage, of about \$700,000. At the February 26 Vestry meeting, the committee suggested that one option to reduce the size of a mortgage would be to borrow against our Endowment. The Building Preservation Fund, which was funded by the proceeds from the sale of the rectory in 1998, currently has more than \$500,000 in it. Borrowing that money would allow us to have a much smaller mortgage (under \$200,000), reducing our interest payments. The community could commit to repaying the Endowment over time. Borrowing against the Endowment would require a supermajority of both the Endowment Committee and the Vestry. The Steering Committee offers this option as simply one option to reduce the impact on our operating budget of a mortgage once the project is completed.

Conclusion: The Vestry will consider the options and make a decision on how to proceed in late March. We believe that we have laid out options that fit within our budget and give us the best opportunity to maximize our space. We are greatly appreciative of the support of the community during this process.

Diocese of Washington *David Deutsch, Rick Rutherford, Maureen Shea, Delegates*

Diocesan Events, March '11 to January '12

Last summer, prior to the June 28 election of The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde as our new bishop, The Very Rev. Sam Lloyd, Dean of Washington Cathedral, resigned to return to his former parish, Trinity-Copley Square, Boston. The search process for a new dean is now underway.

The Cathedral was seriously damaged in the August earthquake and difficulties continue with the restoration process. The most engaging and time consuming activity was the retirement of Bishop Chane, the search for and election of our new bishop, and her consecration and installation November 12. It was an opportunity for the people of the diocese to explore who we are, who we hope to become, and the type of leadership spiritual and we believe will enable us to reach our aspirations.

The Washington Diocese is comprised of 89 congregations in DC and three counties in Maryland (Prince George's, Calvert, and St. Mary's). We are a highly diverse diocese using socio-economic factors, congregational health, wealth and size, race and ethnicity, spiritual, and liturgical preferences and practices. A hallmark of Bishop Chane's episcopate was that, during a period of significant turmoil in the larger church, no congregation split from our diocesan family. Another accomplishment is the establishment and rapid growth of seven Latino congregations in our diocese which hold services at host congregations while creating new and exciting arrangements with those hosts.

The process of choosing a new bishop was much like the search for a new rector, beginning with the creation of a profile describing where we believe we are headed, what we believe our priorities to be, and the characteristics we desire from a leader. The profile was developed through focus groups held throughout the diocese, including one at St. Mark's. Based on the profile, the Search and Nominating Committee received about eighty expressions of interest. The Committee whittled the candidates down to a dozen who each met with the committee. That pool was reduced to five whose names were published in April.

The Diocesan Transition Committee managed five "walkabouts" as a way for folks to get to know the candidates prior to the election convention. Planning then commenced for farewell events for Bishop and Karen Chane, the consecration and seating of Bishop Mariann, and all related transitional issues and concerns.

Report on 117th Diocesan Convention, January 27-28, 2012

The closing hymn for the 117th Convention of the Washington Episcopal Diocese was "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" and that was, in fact, the spirit of our gathering. This was Maureen's first diocesan convention and it mirrored the three General Conventions she attended in feeling like a family – with all that means – coming together.

We greeted old friends, we argued over resolutions, we compared notes on our parish life: we did all the things a family does when it comes together.

With the theme “We Will, with God’s Help,” the Convention was organized around worship and began with the hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” which includes the line “All I have needed thy hand hath provided.” Following Friday dinner, there was a time for hymns, lessons, personal stories, and prayers. During the legislative work, prayers of the people were interspersed with reports, the passing of the budget, and consideration of resolutions.

There were three resolutions put forward by our diocese to be considered at General Convention this summer in Indianapolis. All were debated but passed easily. One would establish new Episcopal campus ministries at community and tribal colleges. The second, sponsored by Paul, David, and Maureen, regards the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. It does not change existing church policy but seeks ways for the Church to augment its advocacy and education efforts in pursuit of a just peace. The third endorses statehood for the District of Columbia. The Church already supports full representation in Congress.

The two primary speakers were Bishop Mariann and Dr. Lisa Kimball:

Bishop Mariann: God needs us to be clear (especially in the Episcopal Church) about our mission for spiritual renewal and structural transformation; our church is not thriving. my job is to strengthen us to live into God’s ministry. It is a time of renewal, to live more boldly. My mission is to turn the trend around

Dr. Lisa Kimball: Bishops, clergy and laity must shake the dust off our feet and start renewal. This is an Episcopal moment: a ‘time of trial’ can be a time of opportunity. Learn to tell our story in a way that is compelling; we can make the Gospel real. W. William Demming addressing a group of Japanese businessmen after WWII: “Your system is perfectly designed to give the results you’re getting.” The church will depend on the generosity and passion of people 65, 75, 85, and older. Congregations grow when open to change: worship innovation is critical; innovation does not mean contemporary; find innovation that speaks to you and do it well. On-line gamers can teach us: optimistically trying something, always challenging; play by common rules discovering a trust in who is an ally or enemy; compelling & imaginative; transfer from the virtual world to real life and change behavior; super-empowered, hopeful individuals; develop congregations with self-control, joy & gentleness. Mission of the Church: To restore all people to unity with God and each other

In small groups, we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of our individual churches, known and unknown to the congregation and to the public. We identified strengths and needs for mission and ministry: innovative worship, multicultural ministry, parish, diversity, art, youth and music ministries as evangelistic tools, music (both traditional and Latino), large and energetic youth group, and preaching. Needs included: Connecting to the diocese and to other parishes, outreach to young families and community, and unification of a multicultural congregation

Dr. Kimball reminded us that mission is not our invention, nor is it about numbers: it involves transformation. She is concerned about the use of technology: communicating solely by technology can foster a feeling of aloneness. The Eucharist cannot be done on-line. To be an Episcopal Church, we must gather sacramentally, remember our story, spread the message of enduring hope, and live into our baptismal covenant through conversation, collaboration, and prayer.

The Convention ended with the Eucharist. There was no music as we waited our turn for bread and wine and a woman behind Maureen said “We need music” and began to sing. She saw a need, filled it, and all joined her. The hymn “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” ends this way - “Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.” And so we were.

St. Mark’s is engaged in diocesan affairs through our clergy, delegates, and parishioners Bill Dickinson (Diocesan Finance Committee), Raiford Gaffney (Resolutions Committee), Rick Rutherford (Diocesan Council), and several who participate in the Diocesan Committee for Middle East affairs. You are encouraged to ex-

plore opportunities to participate and to be involved in the work of diocesan committees and groups by going to www.edow.org, the diocesan website. These are truly exciting times.

It was an honor to represent St. Mark's as your delegates.

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde

was born in 1959 and received her B.A. in history at the University of Rochester, NY ('82). She earned her M.Div and D.Min degrees from Virginia Theological Seminary ('88 and '07). Ordained in 1989, she served as Associate Rector of Trinity+Toledo (Ohio), '88-'93, then as rector of St. John's+Minneapolis, guiding that congregation through membership and financial growth, two capital campaigns, and ministry development. The Diocese of Washington elected the Rev. Dr. Mariann Budde to serve as its ninth bishop and the first woman to serve in that role. She and her husband, Paul Budde, have two sons, Amos (23) and Patrick (20.)



*The Columns (Pillars?)
Westminster College, Fulton, MO
Paul's alma mater*

REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP *Suella Henn and Loretta Veney, Co-Chairs*

Vestry Liaison: Jim Steed

We need to first acknowledge the two years of fine service given to the parish by Jan Lipscomb who completed her term as Worship Co-Chair in June, 2011.

The Worship Pillar continues to operate with excellent momentum. After the departure of Associate Rector Susan Pinkerton in January, 2011, Paul requested Loretta remain as co-chair of Worship for a third year to ease the transition with the arrival of a new Assistant Rector. Loretta recruited Suella Henn as her new co-chair and Suella began her two-year term in June 2011. David Deutsch will succeed Loretta as co-chair and begin a two-year term in June, 2012. The overlap of co-chairs will make the transition more seamless as only one new chair will assume the position each year, with one experienced chair remaining.

Paul continues to be a steadfast and enthusiastic supporter for this pillar and was overjoyed in July 2011 by the arrival of Justi Schunior as the new Assistant Rector. The Liturgy Planning Team continues with its monthly meetings which are always lively, thought provoking, and productive. Our dedicated regular meeting attendees include Paul, Justi, and Suella, Jeff Kempfskie, Jim Steed, John Terry, Tiiu Kera, Michele Rivard, Raiford Gaffney, Liz Layton, and Nat White. Dedicated members Randy Marks, Michael Knipe, and Maureen Shea resigned due to work commitments and other callings. Our new and very active members include Janice Gregory, who has already been a major contributor, and David Deutsch, who not only joined the team, but will be assuming the next worship leadership role as well.

The Worship Planning Team held a day-long retreat July 9th 2011 in the library at St. Mark's. The retreat was led by Suella and Loretta in the morning with Paul participating in the afternoon session. Justi also participated in the retreat despite it being her very first week at St. Mark's. Nine members of our Planning Team attended the retreat which focused on "Liturgy of the Ages for Our Age". During the retreat, we focused on Paul's vision of creating "Transformative Liturgies That Touch Our Lives".

Loretta represented Worship at the Vestry-Pillar retreat at VTS in November 2011 and Suella represented Worship at the Pillar Council meetings in September 2011 and January 2012. Loretta and Suella both attended Shrine Mont 2011 and the meeting with the architects for the new construction on behalf of Worship.

Accomplishments:

- *Children's Chapel:* Created by Susan Flanders in 2010, this service continues to flourish at 9 am three Sundays each month of the Sunday school year. It is attended by children and their parents. Susan Flanders, Paul, Justi, Seminarians Kristen Hawley and Jude Harmon rotate presiding over the CC service. Bill Flanders has periodically provided music for the service.
- *Art in Advent:* This year's art display, in conjunction with the Arts Council, was also part of the Christmas greening. Greening was put in place over the four Sundays of Advent, beginning with bare trees and branches attached to the columns throughout the Nave and completed on Christmas Eve with the addition of glorious trees and flowers, lights, and even big rocks. The beautiful greening was chaired by the team of Gwen Dillard, Penny Farley, Peter Eveleth and Karen Falk.
- *Christmas Eve service:* The pageant, led by Mary Louise Wagner and Marcella Gillis, was attended by 505 people, the largest crowd ever for this service. The 10pm service, attended by 390 people, traditionally featured outstanding music by the choir. The choir, vergers, and beadles assisted with lighting the congregation's candles for the singing of 'Silent Night'.
- *Family Service* continues on the 2nd Sunday of the month. It extends an invitation to families with children to serve in all lay positions (readers, chalcist, etc.). It also includes a 'Children's Reflection'. Children and teens are also being incorporated into the 11:15 am service and on Sundays other than the 2nd Sunday.
- *5 pm services:* The second anniversary of the 5 pm service was celebrated on February 19th with 33 parishioners enjoying a wonderful Mediterranean meal during the service. The service was led by Justi with Paul leading us in two songs and Chris Herman performing on the cello. Average attendance this year has been 20 parishioners per week. Volunteers continue to help with music, Altar Guild responsibilities, refreshments, and clean-up. We have enjoyed recorded music as well as live flute, saxophone, and cello music during the service, provided by Sarah Headley, Erik Lipscomb, and Chris Herman.
- *Festival Fund* raised \$5,340 (cost of floral decorations and brass instrumentalists at Christmas services) for 2011.
- *Recruited and welcomed new coordinators:* 9am Beadle Coordinator Eric Fiala and 11:15 am Lay Server Coordinator Linda Huntington.
- *Purchased two portable communion kits:* Visiting Lay Eucharistic Ministers use these to take communion to sick and shut-in parishioners.
- *Purchased three new hearing-assist devices:* These greatly improved the opportunity for parishioners with hearing limitations to hear the music and the sermon during the service.

Our Strengths

- We begin the liturgy planning process three months in advance to help Jeff more effectively participate by providing extra time to select music to match the liturgy and season themes.
- We are now asking beadles to pass out the 1982 Hymnals and LEVAS from the carts at the Nave doors along with the bulletins to eliminate the problem of hymnals being stored in the kneelers or under the chairs.
- We employ a 'division of labor' between the co-chairs which continues successfully and eases the

responsibilities of chairing this important pillar.

- We share a passion for liturgy and music, love for our job, and exceptional teamwork.
- We coordinated with other pillars, such as Christian Ed, in planning the 10th Anniversary of September 11th service, and the Arts Council in the planning of a theatrical presentation for Palm Sunday. Rarely have we dropped the ball when working with other Pillars in designing services for the benefit of all.
- We work hard to employ excellent listening skills and to provide immediate responsiveness to feedback and questions from parishioners and pillar coordinators.

Our Greatest Challenges

- Coordination with Baxter House to ensure that correct information (who is working on Sunday mornings) appears in the bulletin for the vergers to know who all the players are on Sunday morning.
- Recruiting for all positions, lay-servers, beadles, and acolytes, has been very challenging. After a two-month search, Shay Waye and Shelley Kallop agreed to chair Maundy Thursday, 2012. A replacement for Charlie Rupp, our Treasurer, is now being recruited.
- Alerting the other pillars to our liturgy planning calendar schedule (specifically, how far in advance our planning is done.) Typically, we receive requests only a few weeks before a desired event (a mission moment, Outreach Sunday, Race and Reconciliation Sunday, and commissioning of various groups, etc.) when we have already planned the Sundays the groups are requesting for their event. This causes us to jump through a variety of hoops to accommodate the group or disappoint them by declining their request.
- A variety of challenges with the sound system, including clergy and pulpit microphones, kept Charlie Rupp and the vergers busy toward the end of 2011 and into the beginning of 2012. We believe all technical issues have been resolved at this time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Penny Farley, Will Long, Katherine Loevinger, Bobbi Smith, Co-Directors
 Vestry Liaison : Vicki Street

“The promise of openly engaging one another in our life experiences” was the focus set by the co-directors in September 2011 when we launched the new Christian Education year. The catalog was distributed to the parish and posted on the website where announcements are refreshed each week. Christian Ed Sunday was an amazing experience with dozens of teachers and supervisors processing into the nave and gathering around the altar to be commissioned and recognized by the parish.

Sunday school leaders dedicate themselves to a full year of leading our children and teens in meaningful dialogue and learning. Their time and talent are an incredible gift to the parish. The classes are overflowing their space in the undercroft and Baxter House.

Sunday School	Range of Weekly Participation	Regular attendance	Teachers / Supervisor	Total
Catechesis I Pre-K thru K	11-26	20	3	23
Catechesis II Grades 1-3	18-25	21	3	24
Catechesis III Grades 4-5	8-20	19	3	22
Middle School	8-22	22	4	26
High School	7-18	17	5	22
Totals	52-111	99	18	117

The Fall Life, Community and Faith class (LCF) was a great success with twenty-two participants. Spring LCF is launched with a full class of seventeen resulting from some extra-special recruiting at a pub lunch hosted by the co-directors. We are gratified that classes have had a wide variety of participants, including a significant number of young parishioners, both as members and teachers. Justi Schunior, Assistant Rector, was able to take LCF in the fall in order to lead in the spring. We have encouraged all classes to have both spiritual and experiential components to deepen and broaden the content.

The spring 2011 Sunday school survey helped us make the decision to continue the Catechesis III level program for 4th and 5th graders. Junior and senior high classes are overflowing our available space. It is a lively and enriching functionally-led Sunday school program by all reports. We thank our teachers and our supervisors for keeping the faith with our kids.

Adult Ed course offerings ranged from ½ day in length to 10 sessions with 2 weekends. This year’s catalog listing 30+ courses was designed by Karen Falk. To give the parish an up-to-date sense of the 2011-2012 Christian Education Program, this charts provide a snapshot of participation in classes and events which tells the story of engagement so far:

Adult Classes	Participants	Leaders and Supervisor	Total
<i>Necessary Losses</i>	18	4	22
<i>Nuts & Bolts – Adult Training</i>	6	2	8
Introduction to St. Mark’s (2 sessions)	14+14	1+1	30
Life, Community & Faith – Fall	22	5	27
Fall Baptism Class	8	2	10
<i>Telling our Truth in the Family</i>	12	3	15
<i>Beyond the Frame</i> (2 sessions)	15 and 10	3 and 2	30
<i>Rules, Roles and Relationships</i>	8	4	12
Advent Evening	13	3	16
Christian Ed Weekend	33	4	37
Life, Community & Faith – Spring	17	5	22
<i>St. Mark’s the Musical</i>	Sign-ups start soon		
<i>The Book of Job</i>	14	2	16
<i>Life Changes</i>	19	5	20
<i>Imago Connects</i>	Coming soon		
‘Jesus Seminar’ on the Road	Signups now		
<i>Soul-work</i>	15		15
Bible Studies (Sun., Wed., Thurs.)	15-20	2	22
Buddhist Meditation (Mon., Thurs.)	45-100	2	47
Spring Baptism Class	10	2	12
Totals			362

Current co-directors are thrilled to add two seasoned Christian Education leaders, Rita Ossolinski and Don Ellison, to the leadership team, returning to staggered terms for the Christian Ed co-directors in order to assure continuity, a smoother transition, and adequate preparation for the responsibilities of the job.

We are grateful to all those who have taught, supervised, and participated in Christian Education this year. The heart of the program depends on both those who teach and those who take classes – it is the engagement in our community that makes it possible to realize the promise of sharing our life experiences.

We close with special gratitude for our supervisor, Betsy Athey, who has led us through these 2 years with extraordinary enthusiasm, diligence, and wisdom.

The Co-directors of Christian Education program look forward to your continued robust participation in the Christian Education program!

OUTREACH BOARD *Amanda Folsom, Sally Garr Brodhead, Co-Chairs*

Vestry Liaison: Grady Hedgespeth

Amanda Folsom's term as co-chair will end in June 2012. David Johnson completed his term as co-chair in September and in November, Sally Garr Brodhead assumed that position.

Members: The Rev. Justi Schunior, Eileen Blumenthal, Bob Ewald, Susana Gomez, Grace O'Neill, Jack Richards, Jane Rutherford. The Rev. Paul Abernathy and the Rev. Susan Pinkerton also served as members for part of 2011.

The Outreach Board meets every month except August. At its meetings, members address on-going issues regarding the various programs, evaluate funding requests, and review updates on program status.

Programs: This is a sampling of the programs Outreach funded (in parentheses) or operated in 2011:

- *Capitol Hill Group Ministry* (\$10,000) assists our neighbors in need by providing food and transportation. It also operates Shirley's Place, where over 2,355 neighbors in need make healthy meals for their children, shower, do laundry, and/or talk with counselors. Through a joint effort of Outreach and Youth, St. Mark's contributed 33 Thanksgiving baskets and more than \$500 in grocery cards to CHGM's Thanksgiving Basket program. Our support of CHGM was particularly important because in 2011 CHGM saw an almost 30% increase in the demand for food.

In a joint effort with CHGM, St. Mark's Shelter Ministry provided housing for homeless families during July and August. Volunteers from St. Mark's, along with those from Capitol Hill Presbyterian, made and hosted dinners each evening, often spending the night. St. Mark's also hosted the CHGM Family Night in December, welcoming over 150 people for dinner and Christmas festivities.

- *Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington* (\$5,300, along with matching programs, resulted in SMGW receiving \$7,000) helps homeless and low-income individuals and those living with HIV/AIDS to find employment, housing and health care through case management and support services. St Mark's contributed approximately 72 bags of food, and had more than 43 parishioners donate to or volunteer at SMGW. In a joint effort of Outreach and Youth, St. Mark's hosted a mini-walk for the 'Help the Homeless' program of SMGW in October, which had 35 walkers and raised an additional \$1,150.
- *Action for Community Transformation (ACT)* (\$2,700) supports the work of Ripples International, a small and innovative service organization in Meru, Kenya, which provides voluntary HIV/AIDS testing and counseling. The number of people tested and referred for further support doubled between 2010 and 2011, largely due to the integration of several health care programs into "medical camps" where community members can receive multiple consultations and treatments in one day, including HIV/AIDS services.
- *Soup Kitchen* (\$2,000) Parishioners provided more than 250 casseroles during 2011. In the winter months, they also chopped 120 pounds of vegetables for soup. In other months, they made 225+ sandwiches. St. Mark's gave the casseroles to the soup kitchen at the Church of the Brethren until it closed in April. Since then, St. Mark's has provided casseroles to the soup kitchen at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church. The sandwiches were distributed through the Church of the Brethren until November and beginning in December, through 'Sunday Suppers', which serves homeless people in downtown DC.

- *Grate Patrol* (\$1,100) 15-20 Volunteers, mostly parents and their children, made bagged meals on the 4th Sunday of each month for the Salvation Army program which delivers lunches to the homeless living on the streets of DC.
- *2011 Lenten Mite Box Project* Parishioners contributed \$2,000 that went to support St. Vincent's Center for the Handicapped in Haiti, and the Bishop Walker School, an Episcopal school serving underprivileged boys in Anacostia.
- *Welcome Table at Church of the Epiphany* (\$2000) Each Sunday, volunteers provide breakfast for and share worship with more than 200 people, many who are homeless in the Metro Center area. On four Sundays, we participated in worship, as well as funding and assisting in serving those Sunday breakfasts.

Community Engagement became part of Outreach in 2011. Outreach Board members interviewed a number of community organizations to learn more about the assets and needs in our community. On June 21, after 15 months of work, Community Engagement submitted a report to the Vestry which included finding that, within 1.5 miles of the church, there are four neighborhoods where unemployment is between 14 and 31 percent and where the number of children living in poverty is between 47 and 71 percent.

At the Rector's suggestion, on September 18, Community Engagement presented a resolution to the Vestry stating that our mission includes caring for our neighbors in need and recognizing space as one of our greatest assets which could help non-profits that are already working with these neighbors. The resolution passed unanimously.

Community Engagement worked with the Junior Warden to develop a space-use policy, presented at the October Vestry meeting. Since then, Community Engagement has been working with the wardens and the Rector to finalize a space-use policy which aligns with our mission.

Finally, given the increasing food shortages in our area, Community Engagement is planning a food summit for this spring. The purpose of the summit will be to share information and facilitate collaboration among organizations providing food to our neighbors in need. The Outreach Board will invite Ward 6 organizations to the meeting to share what they are doing, assess the current food needs in Ward 6, and evaluate how we can better meet those needs by working with one other.

ARTS COUNCIL *Christine Farrell, Convener*

Vestry Liaison: Rick Hayes

2011 was another exciting year for the arts at St. Mark's. Christine will end her tenure as Arts Council Convener in June. A search is being conducted for a new convener.

- *Visual Arts* (David Evelyn) continue to play a part in various aspects of our worship and life. They mounted a Visual Arts Show in the Nave during the Advent.
- *Photographers Group* (Chuck Divine) photographed and electronically preserved many parish events.
- *The St. Mark's Players* (Tom Wickenden, President) mounted three productions: *Chicago*, *Assassins*, and *Arcadia* with parish members and community volunteers both in the casts and on production teams. They received three WATCH (Washington Area Theater Community Honors) nominations for Outstanding Cameo Performance in a Musical, Outstanding Lead Actress, and Outstanding Choreography for *Chicago*. The St. Mark's Players also hosted the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Young Playwrights evenings with a dinner theater and performance of short plays in December.
- *Washington Early Music Festival* (Raiford Gaffney, coordinator) In June, we hosted for the seventh year. There was an instrumental workshop followed by a gala concert in which nine premier early music ensembles presented performances in a single concert, their choices of "Passionate Music."

- *Dance Studio* (Rosie Brooks, Artistic Director) Fall registration was held in the Parish Hall on September 9th and 10th with great success. They engaged Alan Harris from 'Le Gals' as vendor for dance wear and shoes for children and adults. The annual Open House was held in early December. All members of the Senior Company and Junior Company participated and the recital was well attended. All of the arts were represented – music, dance, visual art and drama. Currently, the Dance Studio is preparing for the annual June recital.
- *St. Mark's Yoga Center* (Christine Romero, Coordinator) continued to offer Yoga classes six days a week (twice on Tuesday) with attendance by parishioners and those in the community. Due to the recession and many being out-of-work, SMYC saw a decline in attendance and tried to offer opportunities for free or low cost classes without adversely impacting the salaries of the teachers. Besides a twice-annual ½ Price Pass Sale, SMYC offered a 'Recession Session': students could buy a pass for unlimited classes between Memorial Day and Labor Day – 91 classes—for \$108. SMYC was able to offer several free programs to our members, the church congregation, and the community including: Laughter Yoga; a lecture on raw foods and Yoga; a Yoga social; 'Kirtan' (chanting); and a book reading with the author of Secrets of an Accidental Yogi. This generosity was met equally by one of SMYC's long-time students who made a donation to the Center in October so that the Friday morning class can be free of charge. Our hope is that those in the community who feel they cannot afford a Yoga class will come and learn more about St. Mark's Church while they are here. This generous donation is funding the class through June of 2012. Overall, attendance picked up and is on track with previous years.

PARISH LIFE *Jack Burton, Chair*

Vestry Liaison: Rick Hayes

Kristi Kubista completed her term in June. Jack Burton is currently looking for a co-leader.

Third Agers (Kathy Tatko, Nancy Van Scoyoc, Jane Miller): This is a group of parishioners 60 years old or older. We meet three times a year in the fall, winter, and spring. We try to plan some sort of outing for each of those time periods along with the meetings.

Each meeting is comprised of a short social time to catch up with each other, a brief "business meeting" when we discuss possible and planned gatherings and outings, an always-delicious pot luck luncheon (with a scrumptious cake provided by Nancy Karpeles for folks with birthdays in months close to our meeting date), and a program that lasts about an hour or an hour and a half. Whenever possible, the "Jammers" (now comprised of Arnold Taylor, Bill Rau, and John Spaulding) provide wonderful music, old favorites from our (and their!) younger years.

Our programs this year included 'Aging Safely at Home', provided by Seabury Care Management; "Telling Some of Our Stories" in which group members respond to question/prompts thoughtfully posed by Nancy Van Scoyoc; and a talk on Alzheimer's, provided by Dr. Dimitri Kapogianis. Each meeting had about 40 – 50 participants.

Our outings have been to the Mary Surratt house, to Hillwood (thanks to Doris Burton, as a part of the Capital Campaign), and 'Healthy Eating' a guided tour through a grocery store by nutritionist Lynda McIntyre. Twenty people toured Hillwood and about 10 people went on the other two outings.

Everyone 60 or older retired or not, is welcome to our gatherings.

Film Club (Alicia Ruble): This year, the Film Club completed our twelfth year, having viewed a wide range of movies including "The Red Shoes," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," "It Happened One Night," "Strangers on a Train," "The Long, Long Trailer," "Marwencol," and "Citizen Ruth." Typical attendance ranges from 6-12 people, and the club is open to anyone interested in an opportunity to view and discuss film. We meet on the 3rd Fridays of the month at the Yanish's, 1321 Geranium Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Book Group (Linda Ewald): We read our 100th book this year! We celebrated appropriately with a potluck

dinner at Hester Ohbi's house. Our attendance ranges between 3 and 10 with the usual number being 7 - 8. We also have a large group of virtual members who read the books but don't come to the discussions. We meet the first Monday of each month at Baxter House and welcome all who enjoy discussing a good book.

Woman to Woman (Kristi Kubista, Jessica Sauer, Nancy Lucas, Edna Boone): The group actively engages the female members of the parish in a variety of social events. We held a welcome dinner for Justi in September, a chili party in November, and a dinner with author Margaret Hollister in January. A visit to a museum and luncheon and an intergenerational tea are being planned for the spring .

Parish Historians Bert and Mary Cooper completed their major assignment: posting the updated parish history on the website prior to the 2011 Annual Meeting. As decisions are finalized and the proposed renovation and redevelopment of the parish hall and offices moves ahead, the history will be further updated. In the meantime, we continue to respond to requests for historical information from visitors and parish groups.

20's and 30's (Laurel Kennedy): We hold Sunday evening potluck suppers about every 6 weeks at Baxter House. The group hiked in the Shenandoah last July. We had a beer tasting with Paul and other parish leaders to provide information on the capital campaign. Interest is high (over 100 on the email list) and attendance is fair (4-15 per regular event, about 25 at the beer tasting). The group is open to anyone, married or single, in his/her 20's and 30's.

Yahoo e-group for St. Mark's currently has 267 members. Membership remains fairly steady with people joining and dropping out in about equal numbers. The total number of messages for 2011 was 808 or about 2-3 per day. If that is too many, you can receive only one message per day in digest form. Or, you can choose to get no emails and review messages online. If you would like to join, get a Yahoo membership first (it's free). Then, to join our e-group, send an email request to StMarks-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and explain your connection to St. Mark's. If you have trouble, send an email to George Meng.

The College of Crustaceans is a group of parishioners chosen because of their propensity for calling attention to those things, in our parish life, we are not doing particularly well. The Crabs meet annually to choose the parishioner who made significant contributions to improving our behavior by being especially 'crabby'. The 'Crab of the Year' is announced at the 4th of July Crab Feast (rarely held on time just to be crabby.) There is always a superb collection of nominees from which to choose.

The following is the nomination of the 2011 COTY: "We note that Don Lipscomb retains a "home turf" loyalty to the Mets, is a long-suffering fan of the Jets, will never forgive Walter O'Malley and the Dodgers for leaving the sacred grounds of Ebbets Field, and has never acclimated himself to the Washington Nats. We give Don our **Brooklyn Heartbreak** nomination."

The initial nominations are followed by a more detailed reason for his/her selection: "Our Crab of the Year is a man of deep substance, who has borne the pain and anger of racial discrimination, yet acts with grace, equanimity and humor. He brings an abiding love of his immediate family and the St. Mark's family. He has contributed mightily to St. Mark's through our education program, as a former member of the Vestry, and stands out as an individual who can speak the high and lofty as well as the common tongue. He brings a depth of human reality garnished with humor. He faced into his near-fatal illness earlier this year with open, wide-eyed courage, yet even in the ICU attracted the nurses whom he kept in stitches with his wise cracks. Later, recovering in the quiet his room, if a nurse popped in, up would go his heart rate and Jan practically had to muffle him to keep him quiet. While never shifting his sports loyalty to Washington, he is noted for always being in a hurry, let's get busy, chop-chop, get it done now Brooklyn attitude, but when pressed may take an hour to explain in detail where he stands. Of course, we are speaking of Don Lipscomb."

Lichfield Link (Doris Burton) Pat and Brian Empsall represent St. Mark's at Lichfield and made their first visit in Dec '08. Materials from Lichfield are received every two months and posted on the bulletin board and materials from St. Mark's and the diocese are sent and displayed in the cathedral Visitor's Centre.

About the Lichfield Reps to St. Mark's: Pat and Brian have two daughters. Brian is a retired Chartered Civil

Engineer, now spending his free time riding and maintaining vintage motorcycles as well as crewing and caring for the last steam powered working boat on the British canal system. He is a Cathedral Steward, organizing the welcome and seating of people at major services and concerts and helps out with setting up exhibitions such as the Hoard*. Pat started in the telecommunications business, firstly in finance and then human resources. When their two daughters were small, she spent a number of years running a scheme to support families with a terminally ill member at home, later working in the occupational therapy department of a large hospital. She does a variety of handicrafts and looks after the Georgian costumes at Erasmus Darwin House (including having made several), just off the Cathedral close. Together, they walk long distances, attend the theatre and cinema, read, garden, and enjoy being grandparents.

* The Staffordshire Hoard, a collection of nearly 3500 pieces of Saxon-era gold (jewelry, sword hilts, crosses, etc.) discovered in 2009 about 5 miles from the Cathedral, was exhibited at the National Geographic Museum from October 29, 2011 until March 4, 2012. The exhibit contained about 100 pieces and included references to Lichfield Cathedral *and* the 'turn the pages' exhibit of the Lichfield Gospels. Several pieces will be permanently displayed in the Cathedral.

Projects at the Cathedral: The Herkenrode Glass, brought to Lichfield in the 19th Century from a decommissioned abbey in Belgium, is still being restored. The projected completion date has not been announced.

Home stays can be arranged for St. Mark's visitors interested in visiting Lichfield, particularly in this year of the London summer Olympics,

Pub of the Winged Lion: Both coffee hour and pub lunch fall under the responsibility of the Pub Steward (Rick Weber). He shares responsibility with Greg Smith (coffee hour), Rick Warfield (lunch), and Charlie Donnelly (treasurer). Until last fall, Rick also led the Brewmeister's, which prepared Winged Lion Lager at a Virginia microbrewery. Since the closing of that facility, our brew has not been available and, currently, there is no prediction of when it will return.

Pub brunch was held most Sundays during the Sunday school term. Pub lunch operates whenever there are volunteers to prepare (except August.) Many lunches are put on by formal organizations but can be done by individuals or casually formed groups. Sign up sheets for both are available on the hall bulletin board. Reimbursement (up to \$125 for lunch) remains available. Reimbursement for pub brunch is being reviewed by the Vestry.

Answering Angels (Bob Ewald): This group of volunteers staffs the office phones from 9 am until 3 pm. They perform other office duties as asked. The group welcomes new volunteers.

Other Parish-wide events: *Parish Picnic*, held on Labor Day Sunday, was attended by approximately 200. Picnic fare provided by the Vestry and Pillars was supplemented by contributions from the parish. The new Youth Director, Marcella Gillis, arranged games for the children. *Mardi Gras* was not held this year because it lacked a leader.

You are invited to organize a group (we've had Sailors of the Winged Lion, Outdoors Group, a men's group, etc.) of any type. You can also organize a one-time event, such as a trip to a Nat's game as part of 'The Ad Hoc Committee to Have More Fun'. If you'd like information or support for any of these, contact the Parish Life chair.



