



St. Mark's
+
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting
&
Report to the Parish
March 2, 2013—March 29, 2014

March 30, 2014

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill , 2013-14

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CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

March 30, 2014

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
 Steve Dalzell, Chuck Divine, Fritz Henn, Martha Huizenga,
 †

Diocesan Delegate: one seat, for a term of three years
 Randy Marks, Joe Tarantolo
 †

Senior Warden: one seat, for a term of one year
 Grady Hedgespeth
 †

Junior Warden: one seat, for a term of one year
 Michael Summey
 +

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Grady Hedgespeth, *Senior Warden* Michael Summey *Junior Warden*
 Charlotte Murray, Janet Vail, *Members of the Vestry*
 Don Ellison, Bart Barnes, Caitlin Frasier *Members of the Parish*
 The Rev. Paul Abernathy, *ex officio*
 The Rev. Justi Schunior, *ex officio*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 2013

10 am Holy Eucharist

11: 15 am Lunch *provided by the vestry*

11:30 am Annual Meeting

Agenda

Call to OrderThe Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

Opening prayerThe Rector

Approval of the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting

Reflections on changeThe Rector

**Vision 2020 updateMike Townsend and Kenn Allen,
Co-Chairs, Vision 2020**

A few words on our finances Penny Hansen, Treasurer

Elections:

1. Senior Warden

Nominations and vote
Candidate remarks

2. Junior Warden

Nominations and vote
Candidate remarks

3. Vestry

Nominations
Candidate remarks followed by Q&A
The vote

4. Diocesan Delegate

Nominations
Candidate remarks followed by Q&A
The vote

Acknowledgements.....The Rector

Election ResultsThe Rector

Adjournment

Closing Prayer..... The Rev. R. Justi Schunior, Assoc. Rector

BY-LAWS

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH +CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Article I Members

101. Members Every person above fifteen years of age is a member of St. Mark's Parish (the Parish) for purposes of an election and has the right to vote in an election if:

1. The books of the Parish record that person's name as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church at least one month before the date of the election, and
2. that person has made a pledge toward the support of the Parish for the calendar year in which the election is held.

Article II Parish Meetings

201. Annual Meetings The Members of the Parish will hold Annual Meetings on the weekend of the second, third, or fourth Sunday of Lent. At the Annual Meeting of the Parish the members voting must elect the Wardens, Members of the Vestry and a Lay Delegate by written ballot, and will transact such other business as properly comes before them.

202. Notice of Annual Meeting The Rector must give notice of the annual meeting at least one month before the day of the meeting by notice posted on the church bulletin board, in the worship bulletin, and on the parish website. In the Rector's absence or failure to act, the Senior Warden must give the notice.

203. Quorum Twenty percent (20%) or more of the members of the Parish constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members of the Parish. If there is no quorum at the meeting, the members present must adjourn. The Rector (or Senior Warden, as appropriate) must give at least ten days notice of the reconvening of the adjourned meeting as required in Section 202.

204. Presiding Officer and Secretary The Rector, or in the Rector's absence or failure to act, the Senior Warden, will call to order and preside at the Annual Meeting. The Register will be the Secretary of the meeting. If the Register is not available, then the presiding officer will appoint instead a member of the Parish to serve as Secretary of the meeting. The Secretary of the meeting will (1) upon challenge, assist the Vestry to determine who of those present are members, (2) distribute the minutes of the previous meeting, and (3) take and record the minutes of the meeting, including a record of any votes.

205. Special Meetings A special Parish meeting may be called by the Rector, by a majority of the Vestry, or by petition of (50) voting members of the Parish, with at least ten days notice posted on the bulletin board, in the worship bulletin, and on the Parish website. The notice must state the business that the Parish will consider at the special meeting. No vote may be taken on any business not included previously in the notice.

Article III The Vestry

301. Vestry.

A. In general. The Vestry consists of the Rector, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, and nine Members of the Vestry elected to the Vestry in accordance with section 403. Any priest or deacon who is a full-time salaried employee of the Parish will have a seat on the Vestry, but no vote.

B. Vestry members under 18. Vestry members under the age of 18 may not constitute a majority of the Members of the Vestry, nor may they be included in the computation of a quorum or vote on the acceptance of any contractual obligation of the Vestry.

C. Definition. For purposes of these By-laws, the term "Member of the Vestry" means the nine individuals elected to the Vestry in accordance with Section 403.

302. Vestry Meetings. The Vestry will hold stated meetings not less than once each month from September through June and at other times as the Vestry may determine by resolution. The Rector, the Senior Warden,

or one-third of the Members of the Vestry may call Special meetings of the Vestry by delivery of not less than three days' notice to the Senior and Junior Wardens and to each Member of the Vestry.

303. Vestry Quorum Any four (4) elected Members of the Vestry (including the Wardens) constitute a quorum for the transaction of Vestry business. The act of the majority of the eligible voting Members of the Vestry present at the meeting will be the act of the Vestry.

Article IV Election of Wardens, Members of the Vestry, Lay Delegates, and Officers of the Vestry

401. Eligibility Candidates for the positions of Wardens, members of the Vestry, Officers of the Vestry and Lay Delegates must be members of the Parish. See section 101 of these By-Laws. In addition, candidates for Lay Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be confirmed communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

402. Nominations No later than two months before each Annual Meeting, the Rector (or the Senior Warden in the Rector's absence or failure to act), with the approval of the Vestry, must appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of the Senior and Junior Wardens, all outgoing Members of the Vestry, and at least two members of the Parish who are not Members of the Vestry. The Nominating Committee will place in nomination at the Annual Meeting at least one qualified candidate for each position of Warden, Member of the Vestry, and Lay Delegate open for election. The report of the Nominating Committee listing and identifying the candidates selected by it, together with the voting procedure, must be posted on the church bulletin board and on the Parish website at least one month before each Annual Meeting (and, if feasible, in the church newsletter). At the Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee will make its report, which action will place in nomination the candidates that it selected. Following the report of the Nominating Committee other nominations may be made from the floor.

403. Election of Wardens, Members of the Vestry and Lay Delegates 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. The members of the Parish will elect three Members of the Vestry to serve three-year terms at each Annual Meeting, and may fill any vacancy on the Vestry created by the death, resignation, or removal of any Member of the Vestry before the end of that Member's three-year term. The Members of the Parish will also elect one Lay Delegate to the Regional Assembly and the Convention of the Diocese of Washington, to serve a three-year term, and may fill any vacancy of the three Lay Delegates created by the death, resignation, or removal of any Lay Delegate before the end of that Delegate's three-year term.

404 Tenure and Vacancies

A. Wardens. Except as provided in paragraph D.1, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden will hold office for a one-year term, which begins at the end of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected and which extends to the next Annual Meeting. The Wardens may serve two consecutive terms in their respective offices before becoming ineligible to serve in the same office until the lapse of two years after the end of such terms.

B. Vestry. Except as provided in paragraph D.2, Members of the Vestry will hold office for a three-year term, which begins at the end of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected. After a Member of the Vestry serves a three-year term or over one-half of it, that person will not be eligible to be a Member of the Vestry until two years after the end of that three-year term.

C. Lay Delegates. Except as provided in paragraph D.2, Lay Delegates will hold a three-year term, which begins at the end of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected. After a Lay Delegate serves a three-year term or over one-half of it, that person will not be eligible to be a Lay Delegate until two years after the end of that three-year term.

D. Vacancies.

1. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Senior or Junior Warden by death, resignation, or re-

removal of the Warden before the end of the Warden's term, the Vestry may elect a Member of the Vestry to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

2. Should vacancies occur on the Vestry or among Lay Delegates by death, resignation, or removal of any Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate before the end of the Member's or Lay Delegate's three - year term, the Vestry may appoint a member of the Parish to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, when the members of the Parish will elect a member or Lay Delegate to fill the vacancy. The newly elected Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate may hold office only for the remainder of the term to which he or she succeeds.

E. Eligibility. No person completing five years' continuous service as a Member of the Vestry or as a Warden, or as both, is eligible to serve on the Vestry or as Junior or Senior Warden for two years. Members of the Vestry are not eligible for election as Warden before they complete their terms as Members of the Vestry or they resign from the Vestry.

405. Election of Register, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Other Vestry Officers, and Alternate Lay Delegates

A. Officers. At the first meeting of the Vestry after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect by simple majority a Register, a Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers, and such other officers of the Vestry as the Vestry deems the Parish needs.

B. Alternate Delegates. At the first Vestry meeting after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect one or more Alternate Lay Delegates to the Regional Assembly and the Convention of the Diocese of Washington. An Alternate Lay Delegate designated by the Vestry assumes the duties and responsibilities of a Lay Delegate when the Lay Delegate is absent.

C. Terms of Office. All Vestry Officers and Alternate Lay Delegates serve one year or until their successors have been elected and begin to serve. A person may serve three consecutive terms in the same office before becoming ineligible to serve in that office for two years. A person completing five years of continuous service in Vestry offices, including that of lay delegate or alternate, becomes ineligible to serve in any Vestry office for two years.

406. Power to Remove The Vestry may remove any officer elected by the Vestry, with the exception of the Clergy, at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the whole Vestry.

Article V Powers, Duties, Obligations, and Rights of Wardens and Vestry.

501. Duties, Obligations, and Rights of Wardens The Senior and Junior Wardens will:

1. serve on the Vestry and generally perform and exercise all duties and obligations as are required by the Vestry these by-laws, the laws of the District of Columbia, the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798, as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington; and
2. have all rights and obligations of Members of the Vestry.

502. Powers of the Vestry.

A. In General. The Vestry has power to do and cause all things to be done that the Parish must do as a corporate body.

B. Specific Powers.

1. Rector. The Vestry has express power to issue calls to the Rectorship of the Parish under the provisions and requirements of the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington. The Vestry may agree and contract with the Rector on such terms and conditions as it deems reasonable and proper. If there is no Rector, the Senior Warden will administer the Parish.

2. Committees. The Vestry will establish committees that it deems desirable and will establish procedures and guidelines governing the selection and tenure of the committee leaders and members.

3. Audit of Parish Books. At its December meeting each year the Vestry will designate either a Certified Public Accountant or any competent person or persons not directly connected with the financial affairs of the Parish and not Member(s) or Officer(s) of the Vestry to audit the Treasurer's books and re-

cords for the then current calendar year.

4. Property. The Vestry may sell, alienate, or encumber any real property owned by the Parish only if:

a. the Vestry has the consent of both Wardens, at least four (4) Members of the Vestry, and the Rector, except that if there is no Rector in the Parish, the Vestry must obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Washington; and

b. the Vestry has the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese required in Canon 6 of the Episcopal Church and Canon 29 of the Diocese of Washington.

503. Duties of the Vestry The Senior and Junior Wardens and Members of the Vestry serve on the Vestry and perform and exercise all duties and obligations as are, or may be, required by these By-Laws, the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798 as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington. Their duties include:

1. act as judges at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, including deciding any issue concerning the inclusion or omission of any person on the list of qualified voters,
2. manage, control, and direct, with power to sell, alienate, encumber, or transfer all property of the Parish as provided in section 502;
3. elect a Rector, Assisting Clergy, Register, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers, Alternate Lay Delegates, and other officers that the Vestry needs.
4. provide necessary books and records for the Register, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers.
5. file before March 1 of each year with the District of Columbia Government a report showing the purposes for which the tax exempt property of the Parish was used during the preceding year;
6. make rules and regulations for the government and support of the Parish;
7. exercise the powers of a corporation and body politic as prescribed by the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798, as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the laws of the District of Columbia; and
8. sue and be sued on matters involving the Parish.

504. Duties of the Register The Register shall:

1. act as a secretary to the Vestry and at the Annual or special parish meetings; and
2. generally act and perform by the provisions of the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal church and the Diocese of Washington relating to clerks and secretaries of Vestries and by the laws of the District of Columbia.

505. Duties of the Treasurer

A. Treasurer. The Treasurer will:

1. act under the supervision of the Vestry;
2. except as otherwise directed by the Vestry, have charge and custody of all the monies and valuables of the Parish;
3. be responsible for the keeping of accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and financial transactions of the Parish; and
4. in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as the Vestry may assign to the Treasurer.

B. Vacancy. In the absence of the Treasurer, or the Treasurer's inability or failure to act, the Treasurer's duties will be performed by an Assistant Treasurer that the Vestry will designate after consultation with the Treasurer.

C. Bond. The Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer designated by the Vestry under subsection B must furnish a corporate bond or surety in an amount that the Vestry will determine. The cost of the bond or surety will be paid by the Diocese of Washington, or, if not, by the Vestry.

Article VI Rector

601. Duties. In matters concerning the duties of Rectors or Ministers, the dissolution of pastoral relations, and the filling of vacant cures, the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington govern the Rector and the Vestry of the Parish.

Article VII Amendments

701. Procedures. The members of the Parish may amend, modify, or repeal these By-Laws by vote of two-thirds of the members of the Parish voting at any Annual Meeting of the Parish, provided, that the Vestry gives notice of the proposed amendment, modification, or repeals by posting the proposed amendment, modification, or repeal on the Parish bulletin board and on the Parish website at least one month before the Annual Meeting.

702. Effect These By-Laws have full force and effect when the members of the Parish adopt and replace the current By-Laws and supersede any By-Laws of the Parish that may be in effect before the members adopt these By-Laws.

Last amended: April 19, 2009

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

DRAFT – for approval at the 2014 Annual Meeting

1. Call to Order The annual parish meeting was called to order by the Rector. He offered the opening prayer. The Rector acknowledged and thanked the members of the parish staff, all of whom were present.

2. Establishment of Quorum The Rector announced that a quorum was present, give that 166 pledging parishioners had registered for the meeting.

3. Approval of minutes The minutes of the 2012 meeting were approved as written.

4. Vision 2020 Report Michael Townsend reported on behalf of the Vision 2020 Steering Committee, stating that the parish is moving forward with the base design described in his written report. This includes renovation of the parish hall, creating new meeting space in its undercroft and adding a second floor for parish offices. There are four additional projects that will be carried out as funds become available (including renovation of the kitchen, sacristy and vesting area, and full build-out of the parish hall undercroft). Permits for the construction work are now being sought. It is likely that smoke detectors will be installed in the nave. The plan is for construction to begin in late summer and continue for ten months.

The total cost is estimated at \$5.2 million. There is now \$1.8 million in hand. The sale of Baxter House yielded \$1.1 million and \$500,000 will be borrowed from the Endowment Fund. A \$1 million loan will be sought. This leaves \$800,000 to be raised through a second phase of the Capital Campaign, which will ask new members to pledge and previous pledgers to increase their pledges. Former members are also being contacted. The possibility of securing foundation grants is being explored.

5. State of the Parish Report. In light of the amount of business that needed to be covered at the meeting, the Rector asked those in attendance to read his written comments in lieu of his presenting State of the Parish remarks orally. He addressed issues of time, space and money that are likely to arise during construction and stressed that when the inevitable conflicts arise, we must be willing to give each other a hearing, which will be the key to success and survival over the next two years.

6. Acknowledgement of Retiring Officers Janice Gregory, chair of the Senior Warden's Advisory Committee, paid tribute to retiring Senior Warden Cecilia Monahan.

The Rector acknowledged the service of retiring Vestry members Rick Hayes, Marilu Sherer and Bill Dickinson and retiring Junior Warden Phil Guire. He also thanked Crane Miller, Mary Cooper and Susan Sedgwick for their service as Treasurer, Register and Manciple, respectively, as well as the Vestry Class of 2015, who organized lunch before the annual parish meeting.

7. Nomination of Candidates for Vestry The Nominating Committee placed in nomination the names of Jane Byrne, Gwen Dillard, Charles Divine, Fritz Henn, Nora Rumpf, and Mary Thueull. The floor was opened for further nominations but there were none.

Each candidate made an opening statement and then responded to a question from the floor. Frank Lloyd spoke in place of Fritz Henn who was out of the country. The candidates were asked to address this issue: Beyond the construction work, what is most important to our life?

Following candidate statements, registered voters cast their ballots for three individuals, each to serve a three year term, and a fourth person to fill the remaining year of the term of Grady Hedgespeth, who resigned from the Vestry to run for Senior Warden.

8. Election of Diocesan Delegate. The Nominating Committee placed the name Raiford Gaffney in nomination. There were no further nominations. Raiford was elected by acclamation. The Rector expressed his appreciation for the service of retiring Delegate Rick Rutherford.

9. Election of the Senior Warden The Nominating Committee placed the name of Grady Hedgespeth in nomination. The floor was opened for further nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. Grady Hedgespeth was elected Senior Warden by acclamation. He addressed the meeting on the issues of time, talent, and treasure.

10. Election of the Junior Warden The Nominating Committee placed the name of Michael Summey in nomination. The floor was opened for further nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. Michael Summey was elected Junior Warden by acclamation. He addressed the meeting concerning his hopes for improving and maintaining our buildings.

11. Results of the Election The tellers announced that Gwen Dillard, Nora Rumph, and Mary Thuell had been elected to three-year terms, with the one-year term going to Fritz Henn.

Closing Prayer was offered by the Rector.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper

RECTOR'S REPORT

Reprinted from the January 23, 2014 issue of the eGospel According to St. Mark's

My Beloved Community of St. Mark's,

Since Monday, June 1, 1998, to paraphrase one of our prayers, I have "lived and moved and had my being" among us, daily considering it a privilege, one of the chief joys of my personal and vocational life, to serve you as your rector. It is my desire to retire from active ordained ministry on February 1, 2015. I have asked for - and I have received - the approval of our Vestry.

Looking back, I recall June 7, 1998, my first Sunday with you. During the service of the Holy Eucharist at our annual parish retreat at the Shrine Mont Conference Center, in Orkney Springs, Virginia, I said, "I promise always to love you." I repeated that pledge a week later, my first Sunday with you within our historic nave. From those early days of shared ministry, I, conscious of my commitment to you and to our God, through the high and low moments, bright and cloudy days of life in community, have sought to live up to and into the fulfillment of that sacred vow.

At this stage of my life, it is a most appropriate time to reunite with my beloved bride. Pontheolla and I began charting our course toward this phase of our lives in the summer of 2009, when, during our annual

August vacation, we sought to discern where we, at some point, would retire. In 2012, we purchased our home in Spartanburg, South Carolina, which, in the realization of our couple's dream, we transformed into our bed and breakfast, Clevedale Historic Inn and Gardens. This led to our married life apart as Ponthella, by necessity, decamped to her native South Carolina to oversee our fledgling business venture. Now, again, it is a propitious moment to begin to write the next chapter of our couple's chronicle.

February 1, 2015, as a retirement date, allows me to participate fully in the completion of our Vision 2020 capital campaign renovation of our parish hall, which, I confess, I relish as a part of my legacy of life and labor with you. On Sunday morning, September 28, 2014, at 10.00 a.m., our bishop, the Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, will be with us to dedicate our new space.

In addition to moving into our new parish hall, I also rejoice in the anticipation of taking part in the joyous fullness of our life together in September and the fall, which ever arrives for me as an annual new beginning given the rhythms of the summer's end and the commencement of the academic year. And, of course, there are the seasons of Advent and Christmas, for me, always times of anticipation and realization, respectively, and, this year bearing the added significance of being my 17th and final holiday celebration with you as your rector. Lastly, I will cherish the parting gift of entry with you into 2015; a year that I know will brim with fresh promise for you and all whose lives you will grace with your presence.

For now, I close with a restatement of my initial word to you. I have loved you. I do love you. I will love you...

Always and in all ways,

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy
11th Rector of St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Rev. Rebecca Justi Schunior

Friends,

I have been with you for well over two years. The time really flies! This next year will be a time of great transition but I look forward to being with you as St. Mark's says goodbye to our Rector, the Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, and begins its search for new leadership.

This is a brief summary of my work the past year:

Worship & Preaching

- Weekly services - I assist our rector, The Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy, with presiding and co-presiding and preaching during our weekly worship services including three services on Sunday and one service on Thursdays at noon. The highlight for me this year was this past August during our series, "The Bible We Don't Want to Hear." The Liturgy Planning Team and I worked on a liturgy that focused on confronting the hardest parts of scripture in the hope that we would be healed and learn something new. Preachers David Deutsch, Loretta Veney, and Weston Matthews contributed.
- 5 pm Sunday Service – This service continues to grow, entering its fifth year this past fall. 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. The service hosted a forum on Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) as well as a presentation on the Vision2020 capital campaign.
- Ashes to Go – For the second year, St. Mark's offered "Ashes to Go" as a way to meet people where they are. I offer a prayer and the imposition of ashes at Capitol South Metro. At the morning commute time we offered ashes to over 112 people. At the evening commute time it was over 90. We even did a

couple of prayers at Sonoma. David Deutsch, Emily Williams Guffey, Weston Matthews, and Marcella Gillis participated.

- Street Church – I volunteer regularly to serve as Presider at a weekly Eucharist for the homeless at Church of the Epiphany in downtown DC.

Teaching

- LCF – This spring, I am teaching with Bill Jordan, Elin Whitney-Smith, and David Super.
- Thursday Night Bible Study I continued the program this past fall. We read Elaine Pagels Revelations and continued to explore the parts of the Bible that are most opaque. The group looks to continue this spring with a focus on the Law in the Hebrew Bible.

Pastoral Care

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

Newcomers

- I telephone newcomers to welcome them into the community and answer questions about our parish.
- I am currently working with a team of parishioners to reconvene a Membership Committee that would help attract, welcome, and incorporate newcomers in the parish. This group meets monthly on Mondays. Chair, Doris Burton, keeps me informed of their plans and ideas. They have established a “greeters’ guild” as well as redesigned our newcomers cards.

Outreach

- Outreach Board - I am a member and attend monthly meetings. I seek out new opportunities for community involvement.
- Capitol Hill Group Ministry – I am involved with various aspects of CHGM work including attending the monthly clergy breakfasts.
- Green Lions – I attend bi-weekly meetings and work with community environmental groups to advocate for and support creation care in our parish and wider community.
- Pilgrimage - I participated in the first pilgrimage organized by the Middle East Working Group to Israel/Palestine in September and helped lead a discussion following the pilgrimage regarding what the group learned and how we might share it with the parish.
- Youth Trip - I accompanied Marcella to Panama on the bi-annual international trip with our youth.

Communications

Parish Administrator Angela Nedd and I have been working to improve parish communications. Together, we have improved our weekly newsletter by synchronizing that with social media and adding quick e-blasts for important church and pastoral news. We have been working with Angela to update specific areas of the website and plan for a more complete overhaul. I am now working to establish a communications committee that will oversee advertising, marketing.

20/30s

Parishioner Caitie Whelan established a new iteration of the 20s/30s in early 2013. Together, we established a regular meeting time for the group and a standard practice of shared meals and exciting speakers. We also included Diocesan Young Adult Missioner, Jason Evans, for his collaboration. The group went on retreat to DuPont House, Rehoboth, Delaware, in February 2014. Topics of discussion included where young people wanted to connect at St. Mark’s and how leadership in the group would function. Caitie and I led a group discussion addressed forming a charter and developing a new leadership structure.

YEAR	PLEDGE UNITS	PLEDGES/ ADULTS	CHILDREN/ PLEDGING MEMBERS ¹	VISITORS (INCL. CHILDREN)	AVE. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	BAPTIZED MEMBERS ²	COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING ³
2008 ⁴						830	
2009	362	534	137	233	291	+31/-5 =356 ⁵	654 (536A/128Y) ⁶
2010	379	559	142	399	284	+28/-2 =882	676 (541A/135Y)
2011	390	572	143	227	319	+27/-7 =902	715 (572A/143Y)
2012	345	513	145	160	296	+22/-25 =899	720 (575A/145Y)
2013	335	494	109	76	287	+36/-15 =920	740 (580A/160Y)

¹ Age 18/younger

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

³ All baptized members who contribute time, talent, and money to support the life and mission of our community.

⁴ Included as a baseline

⁵ Plus numbers reflect Baptisms, confirmations, reception (*from* another congregation);
minus numbers reflect deaths or transfer *to* another congregation

⁶ Adults/Youth

YEAR	SUNDAY EUCHARIST	WEEKDAY EUCHARIST	PRIVATE EUCHARIST	MARRIAGE	BURIALS
2009	104	21	16	4	2
2010	144 ⁷	42	8	5	4
2011	141	58	9	9	5
2012	145	54	8	9	1
2013	133	54	0	10	8

⁷ Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jeff Kempskie

There have been important developments in the music program over the last year. Highlights include performances of the Earth Mass, a recording project, renovation to the organ, expansion of the handbells, the formation of a handbell choir, the choir's participation in Lessons & Carols and Evensong services, and the hiring of a tenor section leader to sing in the Chancel Choir. I prioritized finding new, high-quality choral music for both the choirs to sing and has worked to better-integrate the anthems with the psalm and readings for each Sunday.

Chancel Choir remains active and healthy, with an overall increase in membership over the past year. The group sang Paul Winter's "Earth Mass" last April (including a joint concert at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church), sang and recorded 20 of Bill Flanders' hymns in June, and participated in the December Advent Lessons & Carols and Choral Evensong service in February. Most recently, the vestry approved my request to use previously-donated funds to pay for a tenor section leader for the choir. This important development will

improve the choir's overall sound and will allow the ensemble to continue to sing standard four-part harmony by ensuring that the tenor part will always be covered.

Boys & Girls Choir continues to develop and grow under the direction of Nadine Hathaway, whose generous volunteering of time has made it possible for the group to rehearse at 11am most convenient for parents and children. The choir started the year with its third-annual choir retreat in mid-September including rehearsals coupled with a variety of fun activities. The group continues to memorize its music and has been singing at the 9:00 1-2 times per month. The choir has benefited from the purchase of a condenser microphone, which provides subtle yet effective amplification.

Hand-bell Choir The donation last March of approximately \$2,500 to the Music Fund in memory of Vicki Street enabled the purchase of new hand-bell equipment and inspired the creation of the Hand-bell Choir. Ten members strong, the group began regular weekly rehearsals in January and has started to provide special music at Sunday morning services about once per month.

Instruments The Holtkamp organ received major electrical repairs in August and September. The work involved replacing outdated electrical components and upgrading existing hardware to make the organ's operation more consistent and easier to play. The pianos remain in good working order. Our 2½ octave set of Schulmerich Handbells were expanded to 3, we purchased two new cases as well as handbell tables, foam, and other supplies, and the bells were polished and various rubber parts were replaced.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Marcella Gillis

My second year has been spent primarily working with staff, parish groups, families and individuals to better clarify our vision of youth ministry, explore ways to more sustainably run our programs and to engage with different groups outside of the parish. I have also had the immense pleasure continuing and deepening my relationship with the children and youth as well as with parents and other members.

Much of our work in 2013 was focused on international outreach and service with the teen summer service trip to Panama, as well as local community service projects with Capitol Hill Group Ministry and Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. We have also worked to emphasize multigenerational programs, from youth groups to parish parties, in order to more fully take advantage of the multitude of perspectives and experiences our diverse community offers.

This year has been one of transformation, both in our physical infrastructure as well as our membership and participation. Our youth & family programming has needed to be flexible and nimble to accommodate the many changes that the parish has faced so far (and will continue to work through). Many "traditional" activities have been changed, downgraded or re-imagined to more appropriately reflect the changing needs and expectations of the youth, parents and volunteers of our parish. Adaptability has been and will continue to be an essential feature of the youth and family ministry programming as we move forward in the changing landscape of the Church, both within St. Mark's and beyond.

As Youth Director, much of my ministry lies in making our youth programs theologically meaningful and faith-based, a task that relies heavily on adult support, parental and otherwise. In this vein, I have sought to engage with different parish groups (most notably the 20's/30's group) as well as beyond St. Mark's with other churches and youth leaders in the Diocese of Washington in order to engage a wider community of energy, support and varied perspectives in our programming for youth and children. Through networking both internally and externally, my hope is to expand our vision and understanding of faith formation among our young people and to create new and creative avenues through which we can minister to (and *be ministered to*) by our children, teens and young adults.

Worship

Family Service: We continue to offer a family Eucharist at the 9 o'clock service on the second Sunday each month, 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 offer Children's Chapel liturgy under the rotating leadership of Paul Abernathy, Justi Schunior, seminarians Weston Mathews and Emily Guthrie, and me. 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: We celebrated our traditional Christmas Pageant, organized and produced under the excellent leadership of our Mother-of-Mary, Teresa Trissell. With assistance of a dedicated cadre of helpful parents, nearly 60 children were able to participate.

Christian Education/Sunday School

I have a limited role in Sunday school, though I coordinate and compile registration of students. During the 2013-14 school year, I served as a resource for Sunday school teachers seeking materials, curricula, ideas and general support.

Summer Sunday School: I organized and implemented, with the help of a small group of volunteers, special Sunday school classes during the summer hiatus, based out of an environmental and social justice themed Vacation Bible School program developed by Episcopal Relief and Development.

Middle & High School

Middle School Day Retreat: 8 middle schoolers participated in the October day retreat. We drove to Summer's Farm in Frederick, MD and enjoyed an afternoon of autumn-themed activities including pumpkin picking and getting extremely lost in a corn maze.

High School Lock In: Our annual fall lock-in took place in the Nave, with 13 teens in attendance. We enjoyed dinner, games and watched the movie "Saved!" followed by a discussion about different branches of the Christian faith and our own experience with spirituality in a Christian context.

Outreach

Panama Teen Service Trip (June): 7 teens and 3 adult leaders (including Associate Rector Justi Schunior and seminarian Weston Mathews.) The group traveled to Panama for a week to participate in Sustainable Harvest International's Smaller World program. In a rural area south of Panama City, we participated in home-stays with local families and worked on sustainable agricultural projects facilitated by SHI. This trip was preceded by several months of group meetings and a pre-trip orientation lock in.

Fannie Mae's Help-the-Homeless Mini Walk (October): Parishioners of all ages made signs and marched around the Capitol building to raise awareness about homelessness in DC and to raise funds for Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington.

CHGM Thanksgiving Basket Drive (November): Youth & Family Ministries coordinated with the Outreach Pillar to collect Thanksgiving baskets, donated to Capitol Hill Group Ministry.

Welcome Table at Church of the Epiphany (December): 3 teens and 3 adults spent an early Sunday morning participating in the Church of the Epiphany's homeless outreach program, including classes, worship and having breakfast with a group of 200+ homeless people in DC.

Family & Parish Life Events

Held over the course of the year, the activities are largely made possible by generosity of time and spirit of parents and other volunteers.

Easter Activities: Egg hunt & family activities

Shrine Mont: Multi-age activities for youth and children including outdoor play, arts & crafts and the design and presentation of a play based on a children's book.

Parish Picnic: Children's carnival games, face painting, water balloon toss, etc.

Annual Family Ski Trip: A weekend trip for families in West Virginia's Canaan Valley. 45 participants of all ages attended in 2014 over Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend in January.

No Sunday school Activities: Organized and led by adult volunteers on Sundays with no Sunday school

Wake Up the Earth: In March, we hosted our biennial Central America teen trip fundraiser and auction in the Nave. The funds go primarily to support Sustainable Harvest International's programs.

SENIOR WARDEN

Grady Hedgespeth

Note: The Senior Warden's Report and supporting documents begin on page 39.

JUNIOR WARDEN

Michael Summey

The job of the Junior Warden involves a pretty steep learning curve without the addition of a major renovation project. You are learning the quirks of an aging physical plant, learning how to get things accomplished, and most importantly, learning who to ask for help.

In addition to the normal Junior Warden responsibilities (making sure the equipment is working and the lights are on), I have spent a bulk of my time working with the Transition Team in preparation for our new space. I have been able to work with three former Junior Wardens, Jack Burton, Phil Guire, and Jack Richards and I would like to thank each of them for their help throughout the year.

I also owe a huge "thank you" to Susan Sedgewick whose help on various projects such as the Nave lighting and the Library leak has been very much appreciated.

Since I am not at the church everyday, I have to rely on others to let me know what is going on. To that end, I could not do my job successfully without the assistance of Ed Green and his staff. Thank you, Ed!

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Charlie Rupp for standing as Manciple for the last year. Your expertise and insight will be sorely missed. Just know that I will not be deleting your contact information from my phone!

Finally, I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Mark's for trusting me and electing me as Junior Warden. Thank you for being more sets of eyes and ears and letting me know when you see something that's not working quite right or needs to be fixed in the church. It is hard for even a handful of people to catch everything so please continue to let me know when you see something.

I would also like to thank many of you who come up to me just to ask me how things are going. I really appreciate it. With the kind of support I have had around me, the job is not nearly as bad as I believe it has been portrayed! In fact, I would be honored to serve as Junior Warden for a second year. If elected, I look forward to a very busy, but exciting year in my life and the life of St. Mark's.

Thank you!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Penny Hansen

Overview The 2013 parish budget, with a projected deficit of \$55,000, was passed by the vestry in April and remained on target for the year. Income was about \$11,000 higher than expected and expenses were about \$4,700 higher (see details below).

Parish Manager's Meeting In October the Finance Committee hosted a half-day parish managers meeting which was attended by some 20 parish managers, representing all parts of the St. Mark's community, clergy, and staff. Pillar heads presented their plans and budgets for the 2013-4 year and Justi Schunior

(membership), Jeff Kempeskie (music) and Marcella Gillis (youth) laid out their program needs. Everyone was briefed on the status of the Vision 2020 project and discussed the many issues raised by a year of construction and transition. Thanks to everyone who participated for stating their views and needs candidly. Everyone came away with a more holistic picture of St. Mark's and its many activities, along with a fuller understanding of the substantial financial challenges we face.

The 2013 Budget.

Audit Because we were unable to conduct our 2012 audit in 2013, we are doing both years, 2012 and 2013, this year. We have contracted with Michael Febrey, CPA, who will conduct the audits in accordance with the principles of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Washington.

Finance Committee I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their assistance and wise counsel in addressing the financial policy issues of the parish, the development and monitoring of the budget, and the oversight of parish finances in general. They are: Linda Ewald, Crane Miller, Kathryn Powers, and Dave Willson; Vestry members: Janet Vail, Jim Steed, and Gwen Dillard; the Rector, Paul Abernathy, the Associate Rector, Justi Schunior, and Senior Warden Grady Hedgespeth. The committee is chaired by the Treasurer.

St Marks 2013 Budget Report

Income

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Pledges	\$797,700	\$804,901
Plate	\$40,000	\$46,304
Other Income	\$4,700	\$4,692
Parish Organizations	\$11,200	\$10,031
Outside Organizations	\$8,500	\$7,930
Total	\$862,100	\$873,258 (+ \$11,158)

Expenditures

Payroll and Related	\$539,500	\$535,478
Parochial Ministry	\$25,350	\$21,709
Diocesan Pledge	\$37,000	\$39,122
Outreach	\$23,800	\$25,500
Administration	\$76,370	\$75,376
Property	\$216,500	\$225,024
Total	\$917,520	\$922,217 (+\$4,697)
<i>Deficit</i>	<i>\$55,500</i>	<i>\$49,000</i>

ENDOWMENT BOARD

The St. Mark's Endowment 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 supported primarily by annual pledges. The Endowment is managed by the Endowment 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. It is a low-cost, well-managed fund that is appropriate for the Endowment's moderate to conservative investment goals.

In 2009 the Vestry approved, for disbursement computation, the most commonly used method in the non-profit world. 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.

Description of Funds and 2013 Disbursements and Activities

Fewer disbursements were made than in prior years because many of the endowment funds elected to hold onto their disposable earnings in anticipation of needing them for Vision2020.

Building Preservation Fund Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, the fund provides for improvements to church facilities. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in '13.

Hoitsma Fund Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, the fund provides for long-term improvements to our buildings that are not covered by the operating budget. In 2013 there were no disbursements from this fund. \$2412.70 from the sale of columbarium units was transferred to the Hoitsma Fund as partial repayment of a loan from 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. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2013.

Verna Dozier Fund Initially set up in '00 from funds donated, but not needed, for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory, the fund provides scholarships for college-bound seniors at Dunbar High School who aspire to become teachers. Among criteria for selection is a student essay on the importance of teaching. The DC College Access Program for Dunbar High School selects the awardees. In '13 the Board approved two \$1000 scholarships. \$250 was received in donations.

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. The dance studio granted one \$1500 college scholarship to a former St. Mark's dancer. No donations were received in '13.

Arts Fund: This fund was set up in '02 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2013.

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. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in '13.

Other Special Purpose Funds Education, Outreach, and Worship Funds are authorized in the '02 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 :

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

Cecilia Monahan (Co-Chair) 202-544-4759

Beth Mahood (Treasurer) 703-622-7293

Dave Wellman (Architect) 202-364-0760

Eric Fiala (Finances) 952-994-1641

St. Mark's Endowment Funds
Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2013
 2013 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

	General		Arts	Building Preservation	Holtsma Capital Improvement		Holtkamp Organ Maintenance		Dozier Education	Craighill Dance	Total
A	\$134,561	\$54,290	\$591,954	\$118,680	\$25,826	\$41,751	\$133,552			\$ 1,100,614	
B				2,413		250				2,413 250	
C						(2,000)	(1,500)			(1,500) (2,000)	
D	23,953 17.80%	9,665 17.80%	105,373 17.80%	21,348 17.99%	4,597 17.80%	7,282 17.44%	23,644 17.70%			195,862 17.76%	
E	\$158,514	\$63,955	\$697,327	\$142,441	\$30,423	\$47,283	\$155,696			\$1,285,639	
MEMO ONLY: Calculation of what can be spent in 2013:											
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of Dec 31, 2012 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)											
2013 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2013 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average)											
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009											
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010											
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2011											
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2012											
Subtotal											
TOTAL 2013 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2013											
Year to date Spent (as above)											
Available to spend as of 12-31-13 - carryforward											
	2,823	9,256	43,500	10,461	2,961	170	7,521			76,692	
	9,036	11,650	70,094	15,726	4,106	2,122	13,599			126,333	
	0	0	0	0	0	(2,000)	(1,500)			(3,500)	
	\$ 9,036	\$ 11,650	\$ 70,094	\$ 15,726	\$ 4,106	\$ 122	\$ 12,099			\$ 122,833	

25,000
 7,300
 32,300
 (2,200)
 30,100
 (2,413)
 27,687

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

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
 4/26/2013 NOTE: Board is to initiate requests for transfer annually or as needed
 4/28/2013 Balance Due from St Marks Church Columbarium Designated Account

MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY: JANUARY 2013-January 2014	
Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action are listed by month-year (03-13 = March, 2013)	
VA01-13	Approved base design for Vision 2020.
	Approved doing additional optional construction projects as funds are available.
	Approved use of \$500,000 from the Endowment Fund for Vision 2020.
	Approved empowering the Vision 2020 Steering Committee to begin the permitting process for the construction project.
VA02-13	Approved annual parochial report to the Diocese of Washington.
	Approved request to allow Loretta Veney to sell copies of her recent book at church.
	Approved expenditure to cover cost of lunch at Annual Parish Meeting.
VA03-13	Elected as officers of the parish: Mary Anderson Cooper, Register; Penny Hansen, Treasurer; Eric Fiala, Assistant Treasurer
	Elected as additional officers: Charlie Rupp, Manciple; Michael Knipe and Angelina Bradley, Co-Counsels; Suella Henn, Money Counter
	Granted the staff a one-time bonus of 2% of annual salary (non-housing allowance related).
	Approved budget for 2013.
	Approved Clergy Housing Allowance resolution for the Rector and Associate Rector.
VA04-13	Approved the appointment of Vestry Liaisons to parish groups.
VA06-13	Approved a resolution of thanks to the Vision 2020 Steering Committee and Transition Team for their outstanding work.
VA09-13	Approved resolution authorizing the Rector to sign contract with Monarc Construction for construction of the base design, with a total cost not to exceed \$5,200,000 for the base design.
RA09-13	Notice to proceed with renovation at St. Mark's Church (with Monarc Construction, signed 9/12/13.
	Approved resolution to move \$7,000 from the unused account for interest on the line of credit to cover the cost overrun for 2013 with regard to construction.
VA10-13	Approved Vision 2020 Steering Committee recommendation to complete the full build-out of the new kitchen and its equipment, bringing the total cost of the project to \$5,532,746.
	Approved including in the construction underway the full build-out of the undercroft, the complete reconstruction of the sacristy/vesting area and adjoining rest rooms, and the revised design for the kitchen
VA11-13	Approved change order to cover the cost of shoring up the parish hall walls.
	Authorized Steering Committee to proceed with developing a proposal related to the cost of installing sprinklers in the nave.
VA12-13	Approved Barbara Harrelson as a money counter.
	Approved resolution to keep open an account with Deutsche Bank.
	Approved charter for Membership Development Committee.
	Approved the Rector's plan for a leave of absence and his retirement on 2/1/15.
VA01-13	Approved hiring of a Tenor Section Leader for the choir for 2014 and 2015.
	Approved revisions to the plan for the Rector's leave of absence and retirement.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY/AD HOC TASK FORCES

Membership Development Committee Doris Burton, convener

Members: Pete Eveleth, Ann McClenahan, Ben Schaibly, Karlyn Stanley, Michael Summey, Caitie Whelan; Vestry representation: Gwen Dillard, Amy Kovac-Ashley, Mary Thuell and Rev. Justi Schunior

The MDC was created in 2009 by Vestry Resolution, established in 2010. It was reconvened in May of 2013, meeting twice a month through the summer and monthly since. Using the materials developed in conjunction with the creation of the committee (each member has a binder containing all materials gathered and new materials are continually added to these resources), we spent most of the summer discussing various aspects of membership in order to understand our task. We soon recognized the scope of this work will not be complete in weeks or months and that it will be a continuing effort for the committee and the parish.

Thus far, we have:

- Written a charter (approved by the Vestry, December, 2013)
- Re-designed and implemented new Guest Cards along with pens for guests to use
- Revived the use of nametags and encouraged parishioners to wear them though we have no storage during construction. Nearly 90 newcomers and long-standing members have requested these. We reviewed their use including consideration of a new style.
- Created a Greeter's Guild of experienced parish leaders to greet everyone entering the church on Sundays. This experiment will run through the end of June 2014 and be evaluated before recommending permanent status (note: this does not replace but, rather, supplement the work of the Beadles).
- Eliminated the monthly advertisements in The Hill Rag. Funds will be used for other purposes including upgrading the website.
- Collected materials from churches visited by parishioners as resources as we examine aspects we believe can be improved. We encourage visits to other churches to see how guests are welcomed and integrated into other communities (materials and reports of your experiences are always welcome!)
- Designed and ordered 'business cards' for distribution at "Ashes to Go". While we have no way of measuring their effectiveness, we concluded products like these connect our outside activities (such as AtoG) to St. Mark's.
- Recognized the confusion in the parish, particularly among those new, surrounding the word 'membership' and have begun discussing ways of defining it that are appropriate to the canons of the ECUSA yet as welcoming as we can make it.

We are now beginning work on an over-all plan that will require wider parish involvement. While considering what we want to have accomplished by the end of our first year, we realized we need to think in terms of metrics by which we can gauge our success to include not just numbers of members and amount of monetary pledges but also time and talent contributed to the life of the parish.

The work of the committee remains in its early stages but we are excited about the positive impact we hope to make on the life of our community.

Race and Reconciliation *inactive*

Elders Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, conveners

The Elders include all former Wardens and 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 out-going wardens, Cecilia Monahan and Phil Guire, and co-directors Don Ellison and Rita Ossolinski whose terms ended in June 2013.

Garden Committee Convener's position open

The Garden Committee remained inactive in the second half of 2013 because of the impact of construction. Two storage trailers were installed in the 3rd Street Parking and three trailers (two for the offices, one for Monarc) were installed in the main garden. Ben Schaibly, former chair, served as a consultant as plants from the 3rd Street garden were given away and/or moved. This garden will need to be re-designed and re-planted following construction and the removal of the trailers. Restoration of the courtyard garden is being planned.

Green Lions Pamela Blumgart, convener

Members : Leslie Allen, Betsy Agle, Collie Agle, Pamela Blumgart, Therese Dorau, Clif Grandy, Christina Herman, Sis McKay, Jane Rutherford, Rick Rutherford, The Reverend Justi Schunior

History: This group is the ¹third iteration of the Green Lions, revived October 4, 2012, by a group interested in organizing our efforts to becoming better environmental stewards. In June 2012, the Vestry approved the Green Lions Charter.

Meetings: The Green Lions meet regularly on the second Sunday of the month after the 11:15 service.

The main goals of the Green Lions are to:

- Educate and inspire our community to act in ways that sustain God's creation.
- Encourage St. Mark's to model wise use of the Earth's resources to support a world in which all can thrive.

Major activities of the Green Lion over the past year have been to:

- Serve as a resource to the Vision 2020 project on sustainability practices and alternatives, with particular attention to promoting a high-efficiency heating and cooling system.
- Provide leadership and research to support the St. Mark's solar project, including recommending a financing model and investor group.
- Support the work of the Junior Warden and Manciple in their recent efforts to select energy-efficient utilities and manage storm-water runoff.
- Research appropriate storm-water management practices for St. Mark's and a DC Water cost-sharing mechanism to help fund such efforts in concert with the Anacostia Watershed Society.
- Contribute green tips to the parish through the Sunday bulletins suggesting things we can do to save resources in our daily lives.
- Plan a short course to be given in May centered on *The Green Boat*, by Mary Pipher.
- Begin planning for green measures we can all collaborate on as we occupy our renovated space.
- Support youth environmental efforts like the "Rice Rangers" program.

¹The original Green lions began working in the late '80's but made little headway and became inactive...ed.

Caregivers Linda Ewald, convener

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

A support group for caregivers of ill family-members continues to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month under the leadership of Mary Welker and Suyella Henn. Laying-on-of-hands is available the first and third Sundays each month at the morning services. In addition, there are Lay Eucharistic Ministers who can offer communion to parishioners in their homes as a way of augmenting the work of Paul and Justi.

This year, we celebrated the lives and deaths of six parishioners: David Evelyn, Buzz March, Ellie Fullerton, Florence Winkleman, Holly Madsen, and Al Rollins.

Vision 2020 Kenn Allen and Mike Townsend, co-chairs

Note: for drawings of the design with descriptions, see *Annual Report for 2012*, p. 28-31

Nearly five years ago, St. Mark's first began exploring the idea of renovating and expanding our Parish Hall to make our space more useful, inviting, and efficient – a project we call Vision 2020 as a symbol of how clearly we see the future. In the past five years, we have engaged in a deliberative and thorough process that included studying the state of our buildings; capturing the dreams of parishioners about how new space could be used; exploring how improved space could benefit the community around us; designing the overhaul of the building; and raising money through a capital campaign to support the project. There have been challenges large and small, periods of frustration too numerous to count, and more than a few queries of “will it ever get done?”

Today, we find ourselves at almost exactly the halfway point of construction, just months away from completion of the most ambitious renovation of St. Mark's in decades. The parish hall wing has been gutted and an entire new undercroft has been dug out. A new elevator shaft has been constructed, as well as a new stairwell. The steel structure that will support the new second floor is in place, and the floor for the new parish hall has been built. We are on target to occupy our new space by late summer of 2014.

What is being built? In January 2013, the Vestry approved the Base Design, which called for a complete renovation of the foyer and parish hall; relocation of the stairs and elevator; the addition of a second floor for a new office suite; and a partial expansion of the undercroft. At the time, the Vestry also authorized the re-opening of the capital campaign in an attempt to raise additional funds for three “add-ons” to the project: renovation of the kitchen; renovation of the Sacristy and vesting area; and completion of the undercroft with additional meeting rooms, a choir room, a music library and additional storage space.

The second stage of the capital campaign was enormously successful, raising an additional \$1 million. As a result, at a special meeting on October 6, 2013, the Vestry approved adding all three “add-ons” to the project.

How has construction progressed? Our general contractor, Monarc Construction, began working on site in late September 2013. Demolition proceeded throughout October and into November, with excavation of the space beneath the parish hall beginning in November. Also in November, a temporary handicap access ramp into the Nave was constructed at one of the entrances on 3rd Street. Excavation continued for several weeks, through December and January, along with underpinning the new walls in the undercroft. Unusually cold weather in January delayed the project some, as it was too cold to pour concrete on numerous days. By late February the steel structure that will support the new second floor had gone up; the new stairwell and elevator shaft were built; the concrete slab for the new undercroft had been poured; and the joists to support the floor of the parish hall were in place. The pace of construction will accelerate through the spring. A key resource for keeping up to date on the progress of construction and seeing photos of what it looks like behind the Parish Hall walls is our construction blog, which can be found at <http://stmarksconstruction.wordpress.com/>.

How much will the project cost and how are we paying for it?

Project Costs	Construction Costs By Contractor	\$4,079,541
	Construction Costs By Owner	\$ 449,262
	Professional Service Fees	\$ 948,591
	Capital Campaign Costs	\$ 82,353
	Finance and Line of Credit Costs	\$ 30,000
	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$5,589,746
	OF ABOVE TOTAL, SPENT TO DATE	\$1,650,132

Explanation of the Costs

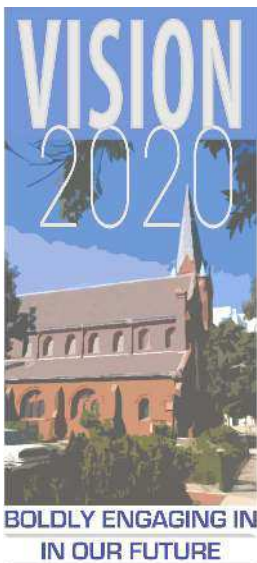
- Construction Costs by Contractor – Costs incurred by the contractor for actual construction, including direct costs, overhead, contingencies and a 5% escalation.
- Construction Costs by Owner – Costs that are not included in the contractor’s costs, such as security systems, IT and telephone systems, furniture, equipment, the solar panels for the roof, and the costs for the trailers to temporarily house our staff.
- Professional Service Fees- – Fees for the architect and other consultants throughout project.
- Capital Campaign Costs – Includes our consultancy fee for the Episcopal Church Foundation, materials, mailing, and the Fall 2011 Kick-off Event.
- Finance and Line of Credit Costs – A placeholder for costs to finance construction. Post-construction our line of credit will convert to a mortgage with costs part of the parish operating budget.

Sources of Funding

Pledges and contributions	\$2,928,926
Proceeds from Baxter House sale	\$1,107,000
Line of Credit from National Capital Bank	\$1,000,000
Borrowed from Endowment	\$ 500,000
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$5,535,926

Note: the project is carrying more than \$650,000 in contingencies. To date, we have used just a fraction of that. All change-orders costing more than \$25,000 from the contingency must be approved by the Vestry. It is very likely that a portion of the contingency will go unspent – the remainder will be used to close the modest gap between the project costs and the funds available, and to lower the amount of our loan from National Capital Bank.

When will we be finished? We are currently on target for “substantial completion” of the renovation – meaning we can begin to move in – by August 1 (ed. As we go to press) with final completion (meaning the “punch list” is finished) by late August. And on September 28, 2014, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde will join us for a special single 10 a.m. service to dedicate our new space!



The Vision 2020 Steering Committee

Paul Abernathy, Kenn Allen (co-chair), Doris Burton, Ed Corr, Linda Ewald, Phil Guire, Grady Hedgespeth, Fritz Henn, Nora Rumpf, Charlie Rupp, Justi Schunior, Michael Townsend (co-chair) and Louise Walsh

St Mark's Capital Campaign	2011 total	2012 total	2013 total	
Borrowing on Line	200,000.00	(200,000.00)		Line of Credit from National Capital Bank
<i>Income</i>				Line is for \$1 million; will become mortgage at end of project
Income to Vestry Account	255,038.13	292,356.14	1,499,721.50	Pledge payments - have you paid yours?
Sale of Baxter House		30,734.81	132,772.52	Pledge payments
Interest income		1,107,174.17	887.65	
<i>Expenditures</i>				
Episcopal Church Foundation	41,575.00			Professional consulting re feasibility
Diocese of Washington	25,866.34			Repay line of credit to finance feasibility study
Bonstra/Haresign	80,346.67	196,985.40	68,548.10	Architectural drawings; several iterations
E & G Group	55,436.23	103,064.88	73,159.42	Professional management of project
Other Consultants Design	28,482.80		9,362.09	
Other Consultants Mechanical		25,963.17	6,823.90	Includes mechanical, fire safety, green options
Permits	2,500.00	2,529.75	39,785.19	
Monarc Construction			354,962.30	
Moving and installing trailers		3,536.44	57,085.95	
DC for Street repair Deposit		33,635.56	2,444.44	These deposits will be refunded if street remains intact
Campaign Events	14,911.71		301.33	
Postage		25.20		
Interest	1,802.93	2,268.49	164.39	
Bank fees	135.66	238.84	180.00	
Parking			170.00	Renting space at National Capital Bank
Total Expenses	251,057.34	368,247.73	612,987.11	

CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS FROM THE WEEK OF MARCH 6, 2014



The new undercroft with the new parish hall floor above



From the foyer: into the parish hall with stairs to 2nd floor on the left and the new 2nd flooring in place



The kitchen is prepped for its new floor and walls to support the new clergy offices above.



The Arts Studio: on the left, the original stage (dressing room) on left has been removed; looking thru the new door into the future office suite

Transition Team Jack Burton, Phil Guire, co-chairs

Members: Janice Gregory, Jack Richards, Charlie Rupp, Bobbi Smith, Michael Summey

In the past year we have (a) assisted all parish groups with the sorting and packing of their property (b) created a new temporary sacristy (c) overseen the move out of the parish hall wing sending church holdings to either an on-site location (the storage trailers), or to storage off-site* and (d) assisted with the assigning of meeting locations in our limited space. A huge number of hours were required to manage completing the above list, especially by Jack Richards (a and c); Janice Gregory and Charlie Rupp (b—with help from the Players, who curtailed off the space). Charlie was also responsible for overseeing the successful installation of the IT equipment and connections into classroom 7 when we moved our offices into the trailers and we count on him for the same oversight as we move into our finished space.

(*Dance Studio, Altar Guild and Kitchen Committee had particularly demanding tasks getting their numerous holdings sorted, tossed, and packed into labeled boxes but were valiant enough that everything was completed successfully.)

We played our part in getting the trailers and portable toilets on site, getting water coolers in the nave, and helping the Altar Guild, Dance Studio, and coffee hour survive their relocation. Bobbi Smith worked with Christian Ed. to be certain their many and various needs were met including the installation of a bulletin board in the nave along with clip-boards (for class sign-up).

We have been available to help solve problems created by the transition to keep programs from being unduly effected. We have met once or twice each month to discuss 'what's next' in an effort to anticipate problems and find solutions before they're needed.

We are now beginning to plan for the move into our new space. We are working with our Jr. Warden, Michael Summey, to assign storage spaces in our new building to meet the needs of our various parish activities. We have begun working with parish groups helping them anticipate moving into their new spaces and in a few instances, being the go-between for requested (minor) changes in storage space design. As has been true for all of our efforts, by the time we oversee any actual decisions and/or work, we have spent quite a few hours discussing the complications involved and considered the practicability of any alternatives we can think of.



The storage trailers in the 3rd Street Parking



The temporary handicap ramp on the tower corner

Diocesan Report Maureen Shea, Raiford Gaffney, Suella Henn, Delegates

'13 in Review Building on the '13 convention theme 'Equipping the Saints', under the leadership of Bishop Mariann Budde and her staff, the diocese initiated workshops to strengthen parish life, began a discernment process for Latino ministries, college chaplaincies, and the future of St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf as well as implementing a new discernment process for the ordination to the priesthood. There are now seven Latino congregations with average Sunday attendance from 35 to 325.

National Cathedral Our Cathedral home continues to face daunting fiscal challenges – think earthquake - and thus has initiated an admission fee for tourists while worship, prayer, and other spiritual visits as well as Sundays are free. Under Dean Gary Hall, the Cathedral is engaging in public issues on a variety of topics and, as always, offering a rich spiritual life.

119th Convention "Behold, I am making all things new" was the theme of this year's convention and those new things began with our meeting at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church, Glen Dale, Maryland and inviting all in the diocesan community to attend.

Glorious as National Cathedral is for worship, it has never worked well for workshops and general gathering, and, dare one mention? parking. Reid Temple had all of that plus a warm and welcoming staff.

In her sermon Friday night, Bishop Mariann said that, in the year ahead, she will continue to look at strengthening the life of the parishes and the diocese beginning with a transparent process for evaluating priests and lay employees. She will also continue her commitment to social justice, again emphasizing immigration reform and addressing gun violence.

The keynote address by Rev. Jay Sidebotham introduced us to *RenewalWorks*, a process for evaluating the spiritual vitality of parishes. Don't be surprised if you hear more about that process in the months ahead (<http://renewalworks.org>).

The only legislative resolution before the convention concerned sustainable and responsible investment principles (SRI). As there were many questions about what exactly that would mean, in true legislative fashion, a task force was designated to report back next year.

In a discussion of the budget for '14, there was an extended kerfuffle over funding for college chaplaincies. And speaking of the budget, while the goal for congregational giving is 10% of normal operating income, the average in this diocese is 5.35% with St. Mark's giving 4.8%. Bishop Mariann, in her graceful way, said that she wanted parishes to deal with their congregations first but hoped that as we grow and have resources to share, that we will see the diocese as a "worthy investment."

Diocesan conventions underscore our sense of community. St. Mark's was well represented with our rector Paul Abernathy and Senior Warden Grady Hedgespeth, our delegates, Raiford Gaffney, Suella Henn and Maureen Shea. Rick Rutherford was elected to the Provincial Synod and Maureen Shea had been elected last fall to serve on the Diocesan Council beginning '14. Arnold Taylor was greeted joyfully by all. Justi was at the 20s and 30s retreat but there is a wonderful photo of her at "ashes to go" on the cover of the Diocesan 2013: Year in Review booklet.

In her sermon Bishop Mariann quoted Exodus that we move forward "in stages." (Exodus 17:0 – "Through the wilderness the whole congregation of the Israelites journey in stages, as the Lord commanded.") We came back to that many times. As we at St. Mark's journey in this next year, we too may find comfort in her words: "But in between drama and promise, vision and its realization, was a long journey through wilderness. How could they make it through? ... In stages, as the Lord commanded."

<http://www.edow.org/news/articles/2014/02/06/behold-i-am-making-all-things-new>

These columns stand on the Campus of Westminster College, Fulton, MO, where the rector did his undergraduate work



THE PILLARS

WORSHIP

David Deutsch and Alvin Moseberry, Co-Directors

The highlights of the Worship, 2013:

- *Ashes-to Go* — On Ash Wednesday at 8am to 9am and 5pm to 6pm Justi Schunior, assisted by verger David Deutsch, held the service of Imposition of Ashes at the Capitol South Metro Station. Each person who participated received a leaflet, compiled by Justi, titled Ashes to Go with a description and explanation of the service and a list of special services and Lenten programs at St. Mark's. More than 150 people participated. At 5pm, the group was joined by Marcella Gillis, Director of Youth Ministries and Weston Mathews, seminarian. A steady, cold drizzle forced us into the station where work continued. The group retired to Sonoma in full vestments for a much needed warming glass of wine.
- *Maundy Thursday* A "spa experience" created by Justi Schunior for the foot washing. The water used was warm and scented with oil. When one's feet were washed, they were treated to an application of lotion.
- *Easter Greening* under the fantastic leadership of Rita Ossolinski
- *Earth Mass* on April 21 consisted of a special liturgy including of a jazz band, choral music, projected pictures of nature, and a Eucharist.
- *5 pm Service*
 - Two baptisms (Nathaniel Ramish, son of Dan and Lisa Ramish; and Eloise Myers, daughter of James and Megan Myers), an important milestone for the 5pm service as it signified the desire of the families involved to have their children supported (with God's help) by the 5pm congregation. This service is now part of the foundation of St. Mark's with attendance often reaching 50 and more.
 - Two new vergers stepped forward to help with the 5pm service: Jim Ashley and Jennifer Cate. They provide much needed help and support to David Deutsch who had been undertaking 5pm verger duties alone.
 - The choir under the leadership of Jeff Kempeskie continues to provide the St. Mark's and Capitol Hill communities with choral evensongs in December and in February, replacing the regular 5pm service. Advent Lessons and Carols Evensong, December 8, was beautiful and transforming.
- *Family Services* on the second Sunday of the month
- *August sermons* on "The Bible We Don't Want to Hear" were preached by Loretta Veney, Gene Kendall, David Deutsch, and Justi Schunior. Sermon Seminar was modified and became a discussion led by Justi.
- *November 24, 2013* commemorated the service at which the Rev. Bill Baxter preached to the newly sworn-

in president of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson. Conceived by Doris Burton, it duplicated the Morning Prayer service held 50 years ago to the day. Excerpts of Bill Baxter's sermon were read by Jack Burton and explicated by Paul Abernathy. A beautiful keepsake service leaflet, containing the entire service as well as Bill's memory of that day (from Building Church) and the full sermon, was used. The crucifer, as the case 50 years ago, was Bill Baxter's son. A moving round-table by those St. Mark's members who were present 50 years ago and a reception followed. This commemorative service took a lot of work to organize, but was a huge success.

•Advent's theme, 'Verna's Vision', was conceived by Collie Agle with help from Jan Hoffman, Alvin Moseberry, and Janice Gregory. For each Sunday of Advent, a different leaflet was provided containing aspects of Verna's life. The sermons used themes that occur in Verna's books and other writings.

•Christmas Greening — Kudos to Stephanie Deutsch and Maureen Shea for being in charge greening the church for Christmas using natural materials to carry out a Celtic theme. Stephanie, Maureen, and their team, did such a beautiful job in a multi-use space with the emphasis on 'multi'.

We continue working to make the monthly Liturgy Planning Team meetings a meaningful experience for both laity and clergy. Co-director David Deutsch concluded, after several years, a concentration on exegeting all the readings for four or five Sundays is not productive. Each meeting now begins with What's Working & What Is Not Working followed by a conversation of possible themes for a season or several Sundays. In light of the themes, appropriate readings are selected. The result is a more macro-rather than micro-approach. Such efforts seem to be paying off. The team has had some interesting and lively discussions. Also, thanks to Alvin for supplying a bottle or two of wine. Nonetheless the exact path to total relevancy is a work in progress.

We would be remiss to not acknowledge the valiant work being done by the Altar Guild. The anteroom of the Chapel of the Nazarene, determined to be the 'only' possible space, was converted into a temporary sacristy by the Transition Team. Although it is dark, cramped, and lacks water, making clean-up long and complicated, the dependable Guild members have continued their ministry to us all.

Christian Education

This encompasses the work of two Co-Directors teams: Susan Thompson, Nat White, Rita Ossolinski and Don Ellison (Spring '13). Susan and Nat continued a second year with Kitty Donnelly joining in July '13. Jack Harris supervised the co-directors until Fall '13. Winnie Mosher served as Christian Education treasurer with Susan Thompson as Winnie's backup. Penny Farley continued as retreat center coordinator. Karen Falk designed the Christian Education catalogue in the tract racks (September) and posted on the website.

Christian Education classes and programs touched the lives of 484 people – almost 500 parishioners. This includes 107 youth participants in Sunday School and confirmation and 305 adult participants, led by 63 teachers of youth and adults, with 8 supervisors and one Catechesis coordinator.

Sunday School and Youth Confirmation Program

The Spring '13 Youth Confirmation class had 13 participants with 3 teachers. The '13-'14 Sunday school program has 94 youth participants, with 17 teachers, 2 supervisors and 1 coordinator for Catechesis.

- '13 Confirmation Class: leaders Nancy Lucas, Clif Grandy, Marcella Gillis; 13 youth
- '13-'14 Catechesis Classes: teachers Suzanne Wells, Suanna Bruinooge, Kristen Humphrey (atrium 1); Brock Hansen, Barbara Williams, Nora Rumpf (atrium 2); Stephanie Deutsch, Matt Dodge, David Trissell (atrium 3); coordinator Nora Rumpf; 52 children
- Middle School: teachers Kathryn Powers, Kim Bayliss, Neal Gregory, Linda Ewald supervisor; 22 youth

- High School: teachers Frank Lloyd, Andrew Baisch, Alvin Moseberry, Maddie Clites (half year), Heather Powers, Eleanor Whitman supervisor; offsite at the Deutsch's home; 20 youth

'13 Spring and Summer Adult Classes and Events

The adult program had 170 registered participants and more than 10 leaders and facilitators.

- Lenten discussion series, "Love Free or Die: The Journey of LGBT Persons & Our Church" brought together hundreds of participants to see a documentary about Bishop Robinson of the same title and facilitated conversations, coordinated with a sermon Bishop Robinson delivered on March 10th (not included in participant totals above).
- Spring Baptism Class: leaders Gretchen and David Willson; 23 participants.
- Spring Buddhism Class on Interconnectedness: leader Collie Agle; 1 participant.
- Jesus Seminar on the Road: Raiford Gaffney coordinator; 65 participants.
- What Do You Want to Believe In and Why? leaders Susan and Bill Flanders; 23 participants.
- What's An Episcopalian? leader Rector Paul Abernathy, April '13; number participants unk.
- Spring Guild Evening "Jesus, Jung, and the Living Psyche": leader Hal Childs; 12 participants
- Summer Introduction to Life at St. Mark's class, leaders Paul Abernathy and Rita Ossolinski; 12 participants.
- Current Status of Christian Education discussion: led by Christian Education co-directors, 34 participants (not included in participant totals above). Recommendations for more short courses and courses without weekends influenced offerings for fall '13 and winter '14.

2013-2014 Adult Classes and Events

Classes Fall /winter had 135 participants, 33 teachers and 3 supervisors. Several classes were held offsite during the renovation, thanks to the generosity of the Deutsch's, the Crenshaws and the Allen-Ammons.

- Fall Functional Ed Training – Nuts & Bolts: leaders Bruce Sherman, Marilu & Peter Sherer; 6 participants.
- Monthly Catechesis Formation (Teacher) Training: leader Nora Rumpf; 3 participants.
- Fall Introduction to St Mark's Class: leaders Paul Abernathy and Josie Jordan, 2 participants.
- Fall Life, Community and Faith Class: leaders Paul Abernathy, Tracy Council, Nancy Lucas, Weston Matthews; Martha Connor-Donnelly supervisor; 14 participants.
- Sunday morning "Marching Through The Bible" leader Bob Ewald; 6 participants.
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study: leader Paul Abernathy; Raiford Gaffney coordinator; 18 participants.
- Thursday Evening Bible Study: leaders Justi Schunior, Andrew Stafford, Kathleen Grant; 14 participants.
- Fall Baptism Class: leaders Leslie Allen and Doug Ammon; 10 participants; offsite at Allen-Ammon home.
- Parenting as Story-telling: leaders Paul Abernathy, Julie Murphy, Kit Arrington: 10 participants; offsite at Crenshaw's home.
- Sunday School Open House to visit classrooms and talk with teachers, November 17, following Sunday school.
- Christian Education Weekend: leaders Kitty Donnelly, Susan Thompson and Nat White; 20 participants.
- January Introduction to Life at St. Mark's Class: leaders Paul Abernathy, Bobbi Smith; 8 participants.
- Spring Life, Community and Faith: leaders Justi Schunior, Bill Jordan, Elin Whitney-Smith, David Super, Charlie Rupp supervisor; 9 participants.
- "Love and Forgiveness": leaders Paul Abernathy, Loretta Veney; Louise Walsh supervisor; 20 participants.
- Buddhist Meditation Monday evening and Thursday morning: leaders Collie Agle, Jonathan Foust, Mary Aubry, Amy Smith, John McIlwain; ca. 65 participants (not included in totals of participants and leaders).
- Buddhism classes, 'The Art and Practice of Meditation', 'The Wisdom of the Dharma', 'Jesus and Buddha as Brothers': leader Collie Agle; 2 participants.
- Beyond the Frame: Fall yoga exhibit at the Sackler Gallery, leaders Penny Farley, Martha Connor-Donnelly; 7 participants.

- Beyond the Frame: February Portrait Competition Show at the National Portrait Gallery, leader Martha Connor-Donnelly; 2 participants.

Outreach

Sally Garr Brodhead and Jane Rutherford, co-chairs

Members: The Rev. Justi Schunior, Amanda Folsom, Susana Gomez, Marlan Green, Megan Myers, and Jack Richards. Also: Grace O’Neil, Eileen Blumenthal, and Andrew Harris

Mission: St. Mark’s mission includes caring for “others with love, justice, and compassion.” The Outreach Board focuses on the “others” in need who live in the broader Capitol Hill community and in international communities where we have made a conscious commitment.

Vision: St. Mark’s Outreach Board is a successful catalyst for social justice.

Meetings: met every month except August. It addressed on-going issues re-garding the various programs, evaluated funding requests, and reviewed updates on program status.

Role: Outreach acts as a catalyst for social justice in our commitment communities by partnering with organizations that support the individuals they serve in developing their strengths and moving toward self-sufficiency and self-determination.

Programs

(The amount of funding each program received from our budget is in parenthesis)

Capitol Hill Group Ministry (\$9300) helps neighbors, particularly families, who are homeless, or at risk of becoming so, become stably housed and achieve maximum self-sufficiency. CHGM also operates Shirley’s Place, a day hospitality center, where homeless families and underserved neighbors can come to make healthy meals for their children, take showers, do their laundry, and/or talk with counselors. St. Mark’s parishioners contributed 39 Thanksgiving baskets and grocery cards to CHGM’s Thanksgiving Basket program.

Shelter Ministry (Capitol Hill Group Ministry) provides as-needed emergency shelter, volunteer hosts, and nutritious food for homeless families during the months of July and August. This past year, “as needed” meant over 50 volunteers standing ready to receive families as the District of Columbia changed its city-wide approach to emergency shelter and re-directed homeless families to another sort of program. Volunteers from the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church also participated in this effort. St. Mark’s hosted two CHGM Family Nights for homeless families during the year, one in August that included providing backpacks and school supplies for children, and another in December featured various Christmas festivities for all.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (\$5,200; through matching programs, SMGW received a total of approximately \$7,000) partners with people who are homeless, or living in poverty or with HIV/AIDS to help them meet their goals, such as obtaining employment, housing and health care, through case management and support services. In addition to its budgeted contributions to SMGW, St. Mark’s held two fundraisers: 1) Outreach and St Mark’s 20-30’s group co-hosted the Hill’s Heavenly Sweets Bakeoff to Help the Homeless that raised \$2050; and 2) St. Mark’s Youth hosted a mini-walk that raised an additional \$250. The \$2300 St Mark’s raised was leveraged by contributions from Fannie Mae’s matching program. St Mark’s parishioners volunteered at SMGW as caseworkers, resume writers and front office coordinators. St Marks donated 78 bags of groceries that parishioners donated in the altar baskets throughout the year.

Soup Kitchen (\$1800) From January-August, the Soup Kitchen Team delivered 159 casseroles to the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church and/or the Central Soup Kitchen. Although the monthly collection

and delivery of parishioners' casseroles were suspended on August 31, parishioners continued to pick up casserole pans, and delivered around 20 casseroles directly to CHUMC per month. The Outreach Board also supports the St. Mark's sandwich making program, which monthly provided 240 prepared sandwiches or during the renovation the equivalent in food and supplies to the Sunday Suppers organization in Northwest DC. The traditional casserole collection and delivery and sandwich making activities are expected to resume once the Parish Hall and kitchen are made available following renovation.

Grate Patrol (\$1,350) 15-20 volunteers, mostly parents and their children, make bagged meals on the fourth Sunday of each month for the Salvation Army program that delivers lunches to the homeless living on the streets of DC.

2013 Lenten Mite Box Project Parishioners contributed \$2,000 to support Metro Teen Aids and St. Paul's Foundation for International Reconciliation.

Welcome Table at Church of the Epiphany (\$1,000) provides breakfast and shares worship each Sunday with 200+ people, many homeless. St. Mark's contribution funded breakfast on two Sundays. A group of St. Mark's parishioners shared in worship and fellowship on these Sundays.

Sustainable Harvest International (\$2,500 for the benefit of Trinidad Conservation Project in Honduras) provides farming families in Central America with the training and tools for preserving our planet's tropical forests while overcoming poverty. St. Mark's supports families in the communities of the Trinidad Conservation Project who are using sustainable, organic practices to grow their crops and protect their forests. These families are now being introduced to business, identifying markets, and strengthening entrepreneurial skills and are anticipated to graduate from the SHI program in the coming year or so.

In addition to the above activities, two affiliated programs are not directly under Outreach:

Mid-East Working Group Maureen Shea and Alissa Walter, co-chairs

After more than a year of study and preparation to realize one of the key goals of the Mid-East Working Group (MEWG), 26 members of St. Mark's journeyed to the Holy Land in the fall of 2013. With visits to holy sites in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Israel, as well as with individuals and groups working for resolution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, the group listened and learned from those living in the Holy Land. Using a dual narrative approach, with a Palestinian and an Israeli guide, they heard the two narratives and multiple nuances of the histories and issues surrounding Jerusalem, Israel and the West Bank. The group was committed to listening to those living in the Holy Land – Christian, Jews, and Muslims. Their study of and visits to the Holy Sites resulted in experiences that were highly personal and often deeply moving, much of which was shared with the parish on November 19th.

Prior to the trip, MEWG presented a series of speakers, panels, and films covering topics central to understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. These were open to the whole parish so that whether or not one could join the pilgrims, all parishioners could be a part of the trip. Further sharing was possible through a blog of the trip.

The trip was a project of the Mid-East Working Group, founded in 2009 and granted its charter in 2011. MEWG is committed to working for peace, reconciliation, and justice for the people of Palestine and Israel by promoting greater understanding of historic and current issues in the Middle East. In addition to the pilgrimage, activities include bimonthly e-mail alerts about relevant events in Washington and links to articles of interest, speakers and panel discussions as well as policy advocacy opportunities, and films about the Middle East and the search for peace there. A class titled "Israel/Palestine: Is There a Samaritan on the Road?" was well attended.

During Advent, MEWG has sponsored a very successful sale of olive oil, olive wood ornaments and other

food items from the West Bank. Profits from the sale have benefited hospitals and schools under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

In the year ahead, MEWG will continue to share opportunities for learning not only about the Israel/Palestinian conflict, but more about some of the other issues affecting the region. They look forward to collaborating with other groups at St. Mark's.

Honduras Committee Jennifer Dalzell, Chair

St Mark's connections with the rural people of Honduras is a combination youth and international outreach program, led by the Honduras Committee but with important support from the St. Mark's Outreach Board. The US-Honduras connection has its roots in biannual service trips of our parish youth group from 1989 to 2004 in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras.

In 2008, St. Mark's chose to work with another partner, Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) (www.sustainableharvest.org) and its affiliate, SHI-Honduras. The Honduras Committee was attracted to SHI because it starts by terminating the practice of slash-and-burning then teaches sustainable agriculture and forestry practices. At graduation from this 5-phase field program, participants are better nourished, better able to protect the environment, and better able to take care of themselves – in measurable and lasting ways. It is this goal of helping families become more self-sufficient over a limited time period that has attracted the support of the Outreach Board.

In 2008 SHI-Honduras hired Roy Lara, a Honduran agronomist, to work in 5 communities near the town of Trinidad, Honduras. St. Mark's then assumed the role of building a network – that is known as the Trinidad Conservation Project -- to publicize and fundraise for SHI. All funds support the work of Roy Lara and the SHI program in those five communities. In addition, St. Mark's parishioners have participated in two youth and five adult trips.

In 2013, we continued our connections with Honduras and Central America in the following major ways:

- Wake-Up-The-Earth: WUTE is a great family event that occurs only on years when there is a youth trip to Honduras/Central America. **This year \$13,879 was cleared! Thank you St. Marks!**
- Youth Trip to Panama: 7 teens went to Panama this year on a trip planned by SHI with home-stays and work projects in the community of San Pedro. Marcella Gillis, Justi Schunior, Jordan Meyer and Weston Matthews were the adult leaders. WUTE funds paid for limited scholarships and project costs; teens and their families paid the majority of the costs.
- Financial Support to SHI/Trinidad Conservation Project: The Honduras Committee sent \$2500 from the WUTE funds to support to the 5 SHI/Trinidad Conservation Project communities.

Arts Council

Chris Herman, convener

The Arts Council was created in the 1990s as a way of gathering the six arts activities under a single leader.

Music Studio Jeff Kempeskie, Director of Music

The Music Studio offers music lessons and is a modest source of income for the overall church and music program. Jeff Kempeskie and Kellie McHugh continue to offer piano and voice lessons, with 18+ individuals of all ages and levels of ability participating at this time. Music Studio recitals in May and November gave students the opportunity to perform for others. Drum lessons and classes have been discontinued.

- Special Music Events A variety of concerts were hosted last spring, including performances by early music group, Armonia Nova, and the choirs Carmina and Illuminare. The Washington Early Music Festival (WEMF) benefit concert and two flute chamber music concerts took place in July. Since the construction project began, St. Mark's has refrained from hosting many concerts, with Armonia Nova's second-annual

Twelfth Night/Epiphany Concert being an exception. Justi and Jeff organized a successful Carols & Cocktails hymn-sing in December and plan to host similar events in the future.

Visual Arts This group is without a leader since the death of David Evelyn who was a major figure in this program for many years. No art shows were hung this year primarily because of the renovation. If anyone is interested in leading this group, please contact the pillar chair.



*Lion of St. Mark
Woodcut by David Evelyn*

Dance Studio Rosie Brooks, Director

Registration for 2013-2014 (September) was well attended. We had our vendor (Les Gals rep, Alan Harris) to fit students into jazz sneakers because the Nave and undercroft floors are quite hard for dancing. We held our annual Open House the first Friday in December. It was a huge success. A parent who is a professional chef did the refreshments.

Classes: There were times when there was no heat in the nave and had to switch to the library or nursery. This was okay for most classes but not the scheduled "pointe" classes. Also, like those working in the building or trailers, we dealt with a lot of dust and the diesel odor. Our students have been very flexible about all of the events. Several classes were scheduled into the undercroft: Dorothy Walker uses it on Saturdays because of the young students she instructs and there is the inside restroom. Jessica Sloane uses it because her classes consist of toddlers or seniors. She also switched from the Nave to the undercroft on Thursday to allow for choir rehearsal.

The Transition Team reports and construction updates are very helpful as we pass the information to the students and parents. It has kept them informed as to the different stages of the renovation. Thank you... Transition Team and Charlie Rupp.

The recitals in June 2013 were very successful. The children's recital was sold out and the adult recital had a large increase in attendance over 2012.

Packing for renovation: The studio was packed and ready for deep freeze. We did not have to use storage on site because Rosie is storing most of the studio equipment in her basement.

THANK YOU! I feel everyone has worked to the very max in communicating with us throughout this whole adventure. We still have a bit to go but I am patting all of us on the back for how we've worked together as a compassionate community.

St. Mark's Yoga Center Christine Romero, Director; Paul Orum, Administrator

Financially, the Center is successfully weathering the challenges brought about by construction although class size has overall seen a decline. The Center made its annual payment of \$12000 to the parish for space

use, and, as of January 2014, is on track to complete its commitment of \$1,000 to the 2020 Capital Campaign.

In January 2013, the Center held a Yoga Teacher Taster in the Parish Hall. This highly successful event drew over 50 students for a free class that featured seven of our instructors co-teaching. February brought the return of the Friday morning class with a new SMYC teacher who had been a student at our Center. This class is small, but has a devoted following. In March, a workshop was held on Yoga and Relief from Grief. In April, a workshop was held on Yoga and Depression.

In August, in preparation for the coming construction, SMYC students gathered after the final class in the Dance Studio to remove all the Center's belongings. We are grateful for our students continued cheerful and helpful attitude during the transition and construction. Thanks to the efforts of the Transition Team, SMYC was allotted Closet C in the Undercroft.

During the summer break, the closet was cleaned and repainted by SMYC, all mats were washed and blankets refreshed. In September, SMYC began collaborating with the new St. Mark's Meditation Center, cross-promoting their events. In October, with the government furlough and tensions being high, SMYC offered a free Deep Relaxation session on Columbus Day, a day that we would usually be closed. This was very successful and appreciated. In November, SMYC again broke with tradition and remained open on Veterans Day, offering a restorative class free to any veteran. SMYC closed for the Holiday Break, December 21.

The Players RC Bates, reporting St. Mark's Players has been busy in the last year. January 2013, William Shakespeare's "As You Like It," earned two WATCH Award Nominations, one for Outstanding Stage Combat Choreography and one for Outstanding Featured Actress. The Players also provided technical support for a film about Bishop Gene Robinson in March and the *Earth Mass* in April. In May, Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret" also earned two nominations, one for Outstanding Featured Actor and one for Outstanding Lead Actor. There was no fall show due to the construction, but J.B. Priestly's "An Inspector Calls" ran in March 2014 at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation. The Players also worked with various church members to re-lamp the Nave with LED lights and install the curtains for the temporary Sacristy.

No reports were submitted by the Liturgical/Needle Arts, or the Photographers groups.

Parish Life

Pam Lacey, Chair

Parish Life comprises a veritable feast of fun with interesting groups and events that help us connect with one another and contribute to our life together. Think of them as the glue that keeps us together – and that has been important in this year of construction upheaval. Almost all of the groups have open membership. You can contact the group leader listed below if you are interested in joining. If you have an idea for a new group or activity, contact the chair who can assist you in putting that group/event together.

Social Events

Maundy Thursday Dinner (March) Jessie Babcock organized the successful Maundy Thursday event this past year also prepared a manual for future planning.

Flying Down to Rio (June 15) was a fun dinner dance in the Nave with a Brazilian-Latin flavor. The Nave twinkled with little white lights and lighted palm trees swaying to the beat of samba and salsa – as well as D.J. dance favorites. The turnout of 50 was low due to conflicting events, but we broke even and had fun. The dance committee, included Pam Lacey, Dick Bradshaw, Joe Calizo, Caitie Whelen, Karlyn Stanley, Dana Dobson, Rachel Steele, Anne Elder, Andrew Baisch, and Justi Schunior.

Mardi Gras (February) *Marcella Gillis, Director of Youth Ministries* galvanized a team made up of teens, their parents and others to pull off a fun evening for all ages featuring jambalaya, red beans and rice, King cup-

cakes, mixologist Hurricanes, face painting, mask decorating, dancing to an “i-pod DJ,” laughing and talking. The ticket price was very affordable, at \$15 per person. Thanks to food and drink contributions from volunteers, the costs were minimal. The event made about \$2,000 to help defray travel costs for adults chaperoning the teen service trip to New Orleans. This provides an easy and successful model to use for next year’s Mardi Gras.

Parish Picnic The annual Labor Day picnic was held in the Parish Hall and driveway with burgers, dogs, and additions provided by the parish. It was a fun event and gave the adults a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, but with limited space for kids to run and play.

Groups

20/30s *Catie Whelan* provided a gangbuster year with her dynamic leadership! The group organized the first ever 20s & 30s retreat at DuPont House in Rehoboth in January 2014. They held monthly “Chewing on Faith” potluck events in the Nave on Sunday evenings after the 5 pm service featuring speakers on timely, meaty topics, often with an outreach theme. Speakers have included Samantha Davis, of So Others Might Eat who spoke about SOME's interfaith work -- feeding, clothing, providing dental care, and supporting homeless and extremely poor folks in DC, and Sister Simone, part of “Nuns on the Bus” which attracted many who have passed the ‘membership’ age!

Reading Group *Linda Ewald* schedules meetings on the 1st Monday of each month. It has 24 virtual members (e-group list) but usually 6 - 8 at a discussion. We almost always have a lively discussion about the book and another about what to read next!

Film Club *Alicia Ruble* convenes the monthly gatherings on the 3rd Friday in the home of John and Nancy Yanish. Founded in May 2000, we have screened more than 120 films, including classic, independent, off-beat, and foreign films, and documentaries. We have occasional field trips to area theaters such as the AFI Silver Theatre and the Uptown for special movie screenings. Membership is open with 8-10 people/month in attendance.

Woman to Woman Convener *Edna Boone* reports the group was less active this past year, but would welcome ideas for future events.

Third-Agers *Nancy Van Scoyoc, Jane Miller and Barbara Harvey* convene parishioners 60 years old or older. About 40-50 of us meet three times a year, fall, winter, and spring, and hold some sort of outing each of those time periods. The meetings are comprised of a short social time to catch up, a brief business meeting when we discuss possible/planned gatherings/outings, a potluck luncheon, and a program lasting about 1-1 ½ hours. Whenever possible, the Jammers (Arnold Taylor, Bill Rau, and John Spaulding) provide wonderful music--old favorites from our (and their!) younger years.

The College of Crustaceans (membership by election) is made up of those parishioners who have made their ‘mark’ by calling our attention to the things we could do better...but not always in the most mannerly fashion. Members are noted on the plaque posted in the hallway. We meet once a year for a dinner at which we nominate as many ‘crabby’ people (and sometimes groups or organizations) we’ve collected throughout the year. The Crab of the Year (COTY) is announced at the annual “4th of July Crab Feast,” usually held later in the summer. We all fill the hollow spaces with crabs, (chicken or tofu for the un-indoctrinated), corn, watermelon and whatever else we decide to offer that year.

The COTY for 2013 was Caitie Whelan.

Other Parish Life Activities

Pub *Pam Lacey, Pub lunch coordinator pro tem (open); Greg Smith, Coffee hour coordinator; Pub Steward (open); Charley Donnelly, Pub Treasurer* Coffee hour was reinstated this year following Sermon Seminar and Sunday School in the Adams Room, complete with freshly brewed coffee and baked goods. A simple picnic-style pub lunch in the Nave follows the 11:15 service whenever volunteers organize it. The Pub Steward is

responsible for supplying and serving beverages (beer, wine, soda). We need a volunteer to be Pub Steward, and one or two assistants to share in serving. Pam Lacey has been filling this role, providing beverages whenever there is a pub lunch. Pub tickets are sold (\$5, \$10, \$20 denominations) by the Treasurer when lunch is served. Lunch was reduced to 5 punches (\$2.50) for the simpler picnic lunches this year.

Lichfield Link Representative *Doris Burton* connects St Mark's and Lichfield Cathedral in the UK. Established from the many friendships developed over the 24 years the link has existed, there have been two visits by their choir in the 80's, our pilgrimage in the early 90's, our choir's visit in '96, and their return in '02, along with several event visits by small groups. We regularly receive postings providing reports on Lichfield activities and events, Church of England news, and events in the Midlands. Pat and Brian Empsall are our contacts on the 'other side of the pond' and are active members of the Cathedral. We send them our weekly bulletins and diocesan and city news. Pat and Brian subscribe to our weekly *Gospel* so keep up with Vision2020 events as well. Home visits are encouraged...contact Doris.

Archives Committee *Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, and Cecilia Monahan*, along with our historians, are committed to caring for our historic documents and photographs. The photo taken the day the cornerstone of the parish hall was laid (1926) has been digitally reproduced as a clear, clean new copy to be framed for our new space. The mural in the parish hall was also digitally photographed and a reproduction will give a space outside the new offices. Other historic photos will be restored and hung in the new parish hall wing. Vestry minutes back to 1869 were found and plans are being made to provide archival containers for all of this material along with our parish registers (these record the names of everyone baptized, confirmed, married, and/or buried through our church.)

When the back-stage area was cleared and torn apart for construction, a large box containing nearly 200 copies of the beautifully-printed Baxter Sermon (Nov. 24,1963) was unearthed. Stashed away by Ed Green (despite orders to toss), these copies had been ordered for parishioners. Our construction Project Manager, John Whitson, discovered writing on the reverse and Maureen Shea, intrigued, began her own research, uncovering interesting information: the broadside was designed by Roland Hoover and printed by The Stinehour Press (VT) which printed for Alfred Steiglitz among others. Through her work, we now have a complete history of a broadside: a copy resides in the Library of Congress, the Johnson library, and other notable institutions. Maureen's work will be turned into a brochure which will be available next to a new copy of what we are now calling the Baxter/Hoover Broadside. Mr. Hoover, a resident of Bethesda, attended the Nov 24 service and was honored and introduced to the parish.

The *Parish Register Project* involves entering all the names from our parish registers into a simple data base. This would allow genealogists to find family members without our historians having to pour through the many registers which have accumulated since our founding in 1869. If you are willing to do this work (if you can use a computer, you can do this), please contact Doris.

Bert & Mary Cooper continue serving as Parish Historians: archivists and interested historians can also contact the Archives Committee.

Acknowledgements:

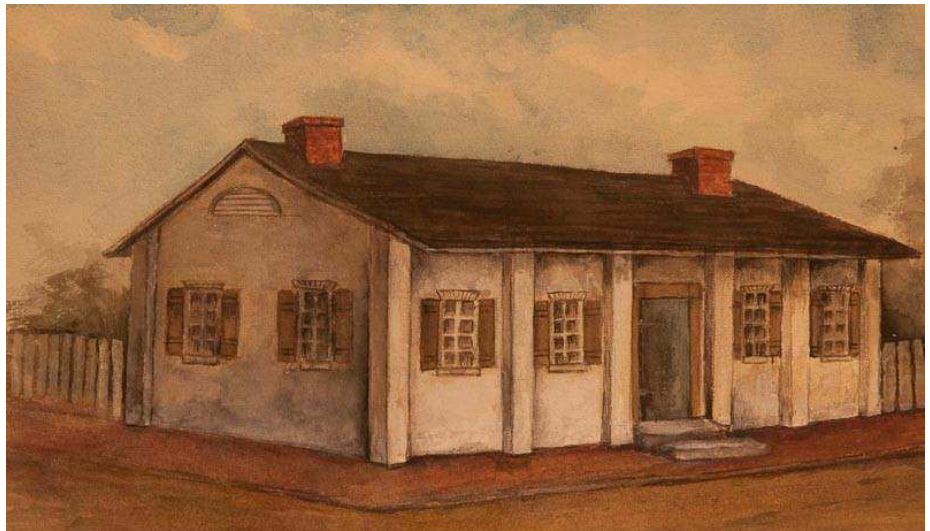
E-Group: George Meng continues to coordinate the parish e-group (stmarks@yahoo.com). Contact him to join this on-line notices/discussion group.

Lambda Lions, our LGBT group, still meets occasionally; contact Rob Hall for information

Brewmeister's Group faded after the brewery in Alexandria where our own "St. Mark's Lager" was brewed closed down. It would be great if we could find a new source (Montgomery County just approved micro-breweries...maybe??)

Men's Group hasn't met for years...any guy want to revive it??

THE ORIGINAL MARKET HOUSE WHICH STOOD ON THE CORNER OF 3RD & A ST., PRIOR TO THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY BY THE VESTRY OF THE MEMORIAL PARISH (NOW ST. MARK'S) (ORIGINAL OWNED BY CAPITOL HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)



BISHOP ANGUS DUNN AT THE DEDICATION OF THE PARISH HALL MURAL, FEBRUARY 8, 1958

THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NAVE, THANKSGIVING EARLY 1890'S. (NOTE LOCATION OF ORGAN PIPES; MISSING ROOD SCREEN [1910], CHANCEL WINDOWS[1905], AND HIGH ALTAR MURAL [1905], AND CHANCEL LAMPS}



SENIOR WARDEN

Grady Hedgespeth

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in so many different ways to sustain us and to support each other as a faith community. And a special thank you to our staff that has endured and triumphed to keep us going through the construction. And I would be most remiss if I did not offer a special thanks to our brother Paul. His personal support of me in this year of change and challenge; and especially with my health scares, it was indeed some year.

I also want to offer a special thank you to the Vision 2020 Steering Committee and all who have participated in any fashion to its design and execution--and the Vision (the construction, that is) is now more than half-way towards being a reality. Unless you have been part of it, you have no idea what a personal commitment it has been. At some point, we really should try to do an estimate of the volunteer hours that have been put in before the process is done. It would be staggering. I also want to hold up the incredible breadth of talent we have to draw upon in this community. But from my viewpoint, the incredible vision and leadership that Kenn Allen and Mike Townsend have brought to this effort is simply phenomenal. So thank you all.

So we have some challenges in living into Vision 2020:

- Deciding how to grow and even if we want to
- Calling someone to lead us spiritually
- And last, but not the least is how we are going to pay for our renovated space

Paul, Justi and I have been meeting with the bishop's staff, working on a way forward. One thing a number of us who attended the Diocesan Convention believe can assist us greatly in this process is something called *RenewalWorks*. It entails a detailed survey which all parishioners are encouraged to take. The results are aggregated and are pivotal to a structured reflection and discernment process that follows. That work can be essential in articulating an accurate profile of who we are, but, more importantly, who we want to be. It should prove invaluable in being clear to all candidates what we seek in our next rector and should help us know when we have found the right one. A number of Episcopal parishes have utilized *RenewalWorks* to assist them with embracing change.

We have a timeline that is really a working draft that I realize is aggressive. At the end of my written report, let me share two documents that reflect where Paul, Justi and I, in consultation with the Bishop and her staff, find ourselves. There is another longer set of *Frequently Asked Question* about the rector search process which you can find at the end of this annual report. It may be more than you want to know, but it is another resource. If the two slides here are not enough for you, the answer is probably in the FAQs.

As for me, I think the path of living into Vision 2020 goes through a spiritual journey of finding deeper relationship and meaning. Much of Paul's ministry, and that of our own patron saint, the late Verna Dozier, has been preparing us for and calling us to be so. It is now up to us to carry on and take St. Mark's to the next level, whatever that may be. While we remain **"the church of the open communion"** as our brand - this is still a faith community. The tension, as always, is to make all welcome regardless of where they are, or are not, on their faith journey.

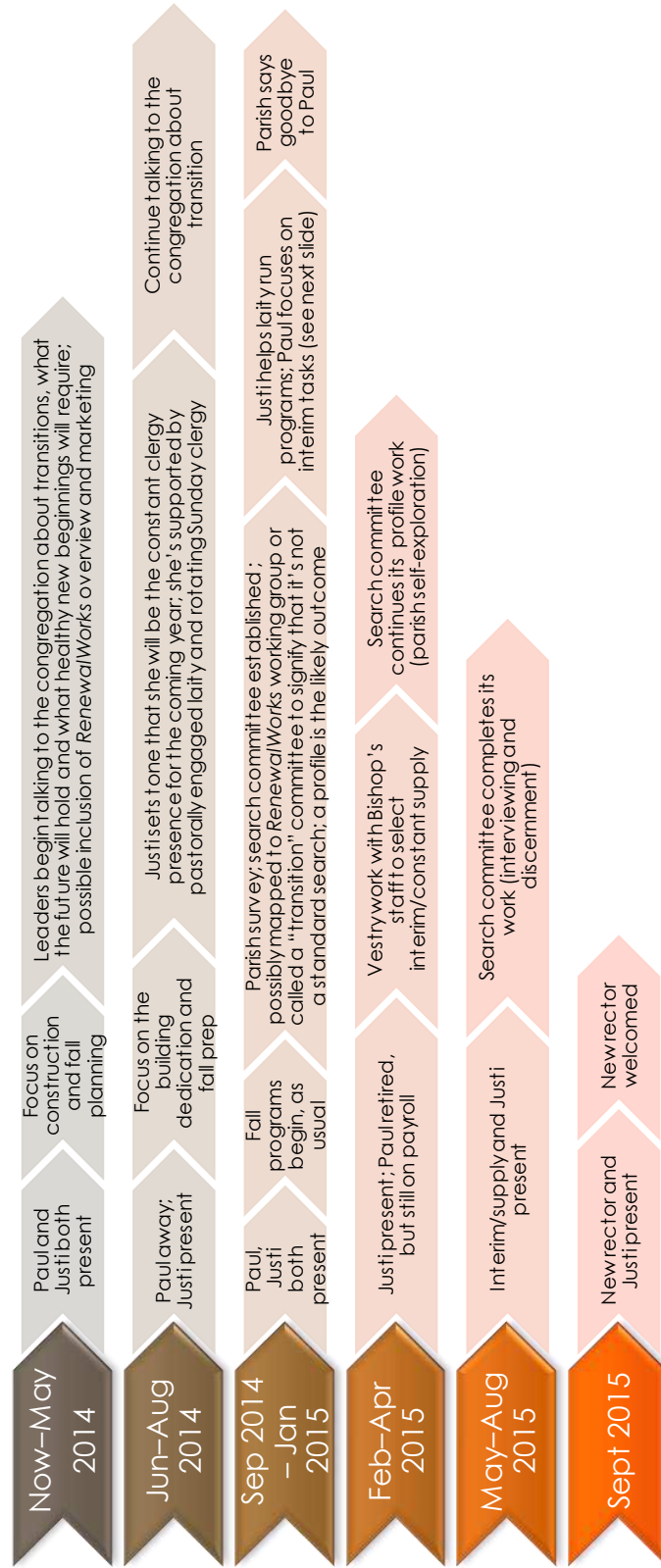
However, I will continue to challenge us by claiming our stories, from both the Old and New Testament. Trying by personal witness to live what I believe is at the heart of the Jesus message. I know I am far from perfect and will fail in this much of the time. But that is why I come here weekly and have embraced St. Mark's and all of you as mine too.

Serving as your Senior Warden has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Thank you for giving me the opportunity and I hope you will let me serve you one more year. There is still so much more I want to help us accomplish together.

Interim Tasks

- Coming to terms with the history of the congregation and its relationships with previous clergy.
- Discovering the congregation's special identity, what it dreams of being and doing apart from previous clergy leadership.
- Dealing with shifts in leadership roles that naturally evolve in times of transition, allowing new leaders to come to the fore constructively.
- Building commitment to the leadership of the new rector in order to be prepared to move into the future with openness to new possibilities.

St. Mark's Capitol Hill Transition Planning Timeline



**Episcopal Diocese of Washington
Parish Transition FAQ Sheet**

Q: What’s the difference between “transition” and “search”?

A: Transition begins at the first hint of a rector’s departure and ends a year after installation of his/her successor. It’s a period of change, with all the turmoil and discovery change can bring. Search is a significant subset of transition. It is the explicit process of finding a new rector.

Q: Why do we have a search? Why doesn’t the Bishop just assign us a priest?

A: The Episcopal Church prefers congregations – through representatives on Search Committee and Vestry – to select their own rectors. This choice allows each parish to choose a priest based on its own self-awareness and discernment. It increases parish investment in the rector choice, and it maximizes the likelihood of a good fit.

Q: How long does the search part of transition usually last?

A: Search lengths vary from congregation to congregation, depending on how quickly the Search Committee works, how often search tasks are interrupted by church events/seasons, how many priests are currently looking for a new call, and the like. Searches in the Diocese of Washington typically last about fifteen (15) months.

Q: Why doesn’t the Vestry run the search?

A: The search process is long and time-consuming, and during it, day-to-day work of the parish still needs to be done. Running the search and the parish simultaneously is too big a job for one group of volunteers. So, the Search Committee runs the selection effort and then presents candidates to the Vestry for discernment. This not only divides parish labor into manageable units, it also develops parish leadership and creates additional opportunities for ministry.

Q: Why doesn’t the Search Committee choose the new rector?

A: The Vestry is elected to govern the parish. A requirement of that role is to hire a rector, so the Vestry itself must be the contracting body. The Vestry are also the ones who will interact most often with the rector around parish business, so they engage in the final candidate discernment and call the rector.

Q: What does the Vestry do while the Search Committee is in place?

A. In addition to managing day-to-day parish business, the Vestry acts as a rudder during transition. It supports the Interim, empowering him/her to shepherd the congregation and using him/her as a teacher for new ways to function as a parish. The Vestry also supports its fellow congregants, being attentive to the emotional waves that can come in transition by providing reassurance and education about the process. When necessary, the Vestry also acts as a resource for the Search Committee, helping them get the data they need to create a Profile and identify compensation packages.

Q: How involved is the congregation in the search?

A: Search Committees are representative of the congregation, so on some level, the entire search is congregationally run. Parishioners who are not on the Search Committee have several opportunities to participate in the early stages of search, as they engage in self-exploration activities and are invited to provide input to the Committee. The congregation should also participate in supportive prayer throughout the process.

Q: Why are some parts of the search “confidential” and candidate details not shared with the whole congregation?

A: It’s a risk to parishes and candidates when rector transitions are not managed carefully. Just as in the secular world, candidates may interview for new positions before they announce departure from their old ones. Departure is their news to share, particularly since it has spiritual implications for their flock. It can be disastrous when congregations learn of their rectors’ departures through the grapevine – not unlikely in a community as small as The Episcopal Church.

Q: What is an Interim and how is it different from a long-term rector?

A: An Interim rector is the congregation's shepherd and liturgist during transition. Interims are ordained priests who are specially trained for the transition role. While many of them have been and will be long-term rectors, some of them are so called to Interim ministry that they make it a career.

Q: What roles does an Interim rector have in transition?

A: Interims are segue leaders between priests. Interim rector tasks are to get the business of a parish in order, put history to rest, and clear a fresh slate. Interims also have a responsibility to shake congregations up a little, inspiring creativity, trying new things, and encouraging self-assessment so the parish can be revitalized and ready for bloom with the new priest's arrival.

Q: What's the value of an Interim rector?

A: Parishes benefit from a breathing period between long-term rectors. An explicit interim period allows the mourning of departure and the celebration of welcome to be separate and spiritually distinct events, and it makes introduction of the new rector more successful. Interims act as a transition lightning rod for parishes, allowing parishes to resolve leadership issues without unduly affecting a long-term rector relationship.

Q: Why can't an Interim continue as our next rector?

A: Interim success depends on a short-term role. Finite tenure allows Interims to lead the congregation boldly through the sometimes difficult transition period. The same person can't be what a congregation needs during transition and then successfully morph into a long-term rector mode.

Q: Does transition have to be difficult?

A: Many people find change difficult, but transition doesn't have to be. For some parishes, it is a time of creative exploration, exciting new possibility, and baggage shedding. It can feel like a time out of time, and it can feel like its own lifetime, but it need not be hard.



Note: The following remarks were delivered to the Parish by the Rector at the meeting and were not available for inclusion in the booklet until after.

Remarks on Change – A Thumbnail Sketch

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector
St. Mark's Episcopal Church + Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, March 30, 2014

It's been a good run, you, my beloved St. Mark's community, and I, since Monday, June 1, 1998, when I ambled up the Baxter House staircase a bit before 9.00 a.m. to my second floor office and, opening the door, found a welcoming committee, among them, Winnie Mosher, our then Junior Warden, greeting me with handshakes and hugs, salutations and smiles.

Immediately, I was thrust into our (still!) common life of countless meetings (in that first month, over 40). Shortly thereafter, I felt the pressure to conform, expressed by many in their expectations that I not change too much too soon; usually adding how my predecessor, James Rowe Adams (1966-1996), did things.

In addition, I was (and remain) African American. St. Mark's, then (and now), a community of well-educated, well-read, and well-traveled, free-thinking, open-questioning, liberal-minded folk, did a remarkable thing, I believe, in choosing me to serve as rector. Still, now (as then), as we all reside in the United States of America, whose history is scarred by institutionalized slavery, I also believe that our national destiny, in inescapable part, involves wrestling with racism. Some of the difficulties I encountered in those first years, I think, were rooted in the move from a long-serving, well-loved rector to *whoever* came after *and* that the fact I, in my racial being, was visible, irrefutable change.

Now, here you, St. Mark's, although different than you were in 1998, are again. On February 1, 2015, I retire as your 11th rector. In what follows, I reflect on elements of change and transition.

I've oft heard it said: No one likes change. I don't believe that. Rather I think that none of us likes certain changes. Discomfiting change for one person is another's long sought transformation, and vice-versa.

If that is so, then in a community of folk (each member with individual, no matter how similar, perceptions and perspectives), we can anticipate that, at one moment, some will be comfortable with change and others not. In the next instance, those initially content may be on edge. And, at all times, it is possible that anyone can and will experience tranquility *and* distress.

One caveat. Change and transition are necessarily related, but essentially not the same (I am indebted to William Bridges, author of *Managing Transitions*, 1991, for this distinction.). Change, beyond our intent and control, our want and need, and whether adjudged good or bad, happens. Think aging. Transition, however, is an internal process regarding *how* we think and feel about the change we experience. Moreover, change can occur speedily and transition, usually, more slowly.

Guided by Bridges' model, there are three transition stages that accompany change (the degree of one's comfort being a chief determinate of how slowly or swiftly one moves): **the end** (of the familiar), **neutrality**, **the (new) beginning**.

The end, at the beginning of the introduction of change, can be characterized by emotional upheaval and resistance. (Perhaps paradoxically, in regard to what I'll term the "pleasure principle" of finding comfort in the familiarity of no-surprises, it is possible for one to be discomfited in the loss of something accustomed that one did not particular like!) The emotions typically associated with this transition stage are fear and uncertainty (of the unknown), denial (of the change, thus holding tightly onto the known), frustration and anger (at the change) rooted in sadness, disorientation, frustration (at the loss of the familiar).

It is important (essential, I believe) to acknowledge everyone's emotions and to accept resistance (at least, as a wise soul once put it: "Resistance is energy, which beats apathy!"), allowing time and opportunities for

folk to express what they feel, responding with empathetic listening and concrete and comprehensive communications about what is to come *and*, most importantly, inviting people's ideas about how to share and take part in living into (laboring effectively and faithfully in) the coming environment.

Neutrality, metaphorically, is a bridge stage between the end and the new beginning; characterized by attachments, for some, to the old and, perhaps for all, anxiety and skepticism expressed in confusion and impatience in imagining and adapting to the new.

It is important, again, to acknowledge (validate) what people feel, to encourage a free exchange of ideas about what makes (and what doesn't make) sense toward forming a communal set of definitions and descriptions of life and labor, goals and guides, new skills and systems for entering the new land. (In the Israelites' journey from Egypt, recounted in Exodus, it is no surprise that the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, presumably crafted during that neutral, interim preparatory period of pilgrimage, are replete with laws governing individual and communal conduct in the coming life of the Promised Land.)

The beginning, at best, a stage of acceptance and renewed, heightened energy, can be seen (and known) more clearly when the people embrace (with openness to learning) change and, with commitment to and with the community, employ the skills and systems designed for faithful, effective labor.

Through the now and to the then (the end) for me. It is reasonable, indeed, faithful for me to say who I perceive myself to be and what I think I'll be doing in and through my time with you before my departure.

In a word, my role is akin to that of Moses. Certainly not as a lawgiver who discerns, whether through mountaintop encounter with God or in the solitude of his heart and soul (or both!), and then dictates the guidelines of St. Mark's policies and programs for the years to come. This essential work is for *you* (all of you) to do. Rather I, like Moses, am a leader who takes part with you in the journey to a new "land" (a new day and time) that I, in my exodus from you, won't and can't share.

In that leadership role, I pledge:

- To continue to love you. You have been an abiding part of my life (*of me!*) for over fifteen years. I, in my person and my priesthood, have been molded and shaped by you. Through our life together, I have named and claimed my values of love and justice (unconditional benevolence and fairness) as the benchmarks of my being and behavior. I am grateful for the growth I have experienced. Even more, I treasure you.
- To be a bridge, bearing conscious witness to our parish history and honoring those who served before me, the Reverends William McNeil Baxter (1954-1966) and, again, James Rowe Adams, and pointing forward to your future with my successor; one who will serve as the 12th rector of St. Mark's – "an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey...celebrat(ing) the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and care for others with love, justice, and compassion."
- To be a mirror (of our communal values of acceptance and inclusion), through my words and deeds, at our altar and in our pulpit, at meetings and in Christian education classes, in pastoral counseling and private conversations, reflecting our lights and our shadows, our strengths and growing edges all to the end that we continue to live fully into who, in the power of God's ever-renewing love, we already are.

William Bridges, Ph.D., President of William Bridges and Associates: internationally known author, consultant, and speaker who advises individuals and organizations on productive engagement with change. His books include expanded 3rd edition of *Managing Transitions* (2009), the updated 2nd edition of *Transitions* (2004), *The Way of Transition* (2000), a semi-autobiographical study of dealing with profound personal changes and self-renewal, and *Creating You & Co.* (1997), a handbook for establishing and maintaining a work-life that capitalizes on today's frequent and disruptive changes.

Annual Report of St. Mark's Church + Capitol Hill, Washington D.C., 5th edition

All reports are the work of the clergy, staff, parish leaders and managers cited.

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