



These reports are the work of the parish leaders, managers, and staff of St. Mark's + Capitol Hill as credited in the booklet and cover the time period between Annual Meetings only.

Doris Muller-Burton, Editor.
10th Edition



St. Mark's
+
Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting
&
Report to the Parish

March 1, 2017—February 1, 2018

February 25, 2018

Annual Meeting and Report to the Parish

St. Mark's + Capitol Hill, 2017-2018

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CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

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

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

Katherine Anderson, Jane M. Byrne, Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, Amber MacDonald

+

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

Peter Wesley Nye

+

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee

Karen Weidemann, Chair

Nora Howell, *Senior Warden*; Kenn Allen, *Junior Warden*; Jennifer Holland, Doug Jackson *Members of the Vestry*

Fritz Henn, Josie Jordan *Members of the Parish*

The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, *ex officio*

Fundraisers: Wake Up the Earth dinner and auction- \$5,000.00; Stock Sales to parish- \$4000.00

Participants: 10

Participants for 2016 service trip: 14

Service Trips Celebration: On August 27, parishioners were invited for a lunch and presentation of service trip experiences by our middle and high school youth. We presented a video for each trip and heard reflections from youth about their experiences. More than 60 parishioners attended.

Other Outreach Projects:

Light the Night Walk to End Lymphoma and Leukemia Bake Sale and Walk:

What: To offer support to the family of Henry Burneson, youth and their families put together a bake sale to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society as well as participated in the walk at Freedom Plaza as part of Team Henry.

When: October, 2017 Money raised at bake sale: \$1200 Participants/bake sale: 16 Participants/walk: 12

CHGM Family Night (August)

What: Youth & Family Ministries coordinated with the Outreach Pillar to purchase backpacks and school supplies at the August Family Night for the children of shelter families.

When: August 13- Backpack stuffing, August 21- Family Night Participants: 10

CHGM Family Night (December)

What: Middle and high school youth coordinated with the Outreach Pillar to purchase toys and books for children and shelter families

When: December 10- gift shopping/wrapping, December 18: Family Night Participants: 25

Family & Parish Life Events

These are held over the course of the year and are largely made possible by generosity of time and spirit of parents and other volunteers.

Annual Family Ski Trip – A weekend trip for families in West Virginia Canaan Valley over President's Day Weekend.

Participants in 2018: 51

Participants in 2017: 55

Walking After Jesus—Now in its second year, this event lets children follow the steps of Jesus in the days leading up to his crucifixion. Parishioner volunteers dress up as the characters Jesus encountered and the children interact with them to acquire a deeper sense of the story.

When: Holy Saturday, April 1 Children: 8

Parish volunteers: 7

Easter Activities – 10am Egg Hunt + 5pm Egg Hunt

Annual Parish Retreat– The theme for kid's programming this year was Caring for Creation, and we put together a short play/performance of 'We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands.'

When: June 17-18

Youth/children: 15

Youth/children in 2016: 13

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

When: September 11

Youth volunteers: 10

Participants: 23

Family Fellowship Events- Post-Sunday School time of fellowship for children/youth/ families, 3rd Sunday of every month:

Oct. 15- Pumpkin decorating

Nov. 19- Advent Wreath activity

Dec. 18- Christmas Cookie Sunday

Jan. 7- Ice Skating

Communications

Weekly Youth E-News—An e-newsletter with news, updates, program details, and more is sent out to all youth and families every Tuesday.

Tucking in with the Gospel-- Kid-friendly translation of each week's Gospel reading with questions to spur family reflection. This empowers families to read and talk about the text each week before coming to church. Sent out every Friday to parents of young children.

Middle School & High School Events

Each Fall and Spring the middle and high school youth bookend their Sunday school year with a retreat (for high school) and a lock-in (for middle school). The primary goal is for the community to bond, relax, and have fun.

High School Spring Retreat

When: May 13-14 Where: Blue Ridge Summit, MD (home of Ann Craig)
 Theme/Activities: origami paper crane art for Sunday school banner, group dinner making, movie
 Chaperones: Jim Brooks, Erick Smith Participants: 15 *Spring Retreat 2016: 11*

Middle School Spring Lock In

When: May 6-7 Where: St. Mark's
 Theme/Activities: Pay Attention-- CHGM's Homeless Assistance Response Team walk, glow in the dark kick ball, murder in the Nave, movie
 Chaperones: Leslie Allen Participants: 9 *Participants at Spring Lock-In 2016: 12*

High School Fall Retreat:

When: September 30-October 1 Where: YMCA Camp Tockwogh, Thorton, MD
 Activities: Home-climbing wall, archery, kayak, outdoor games, bonfire, movie, 'Where I'm From' art activity
 Chaperones: Donna Sabino, Eric Baldwin, Don Lipscomb, Heather Powers
 Participants: 12 *Participants at Fall Retreat 2016: 11*

Middle School Fall Lock In:

When: September 16-17 Where: St. Mark's
 Theme/Activities: Home: short video stories of refugee children, obstacle course, circle painting, hide-&-seek, movie
 Chaperones: Matt Dodge, Heather Powers Participants: 17 *Participants In 2016: 14*

Outreach

Service Trips Our youth service trips program provides yearly week-long service experiences for our middle and high school youth. The goal is three fold: 1) we seek to use our resources to serve communities in need; 2) we seek to educate our youth to the diversity of need in local, rural, urban, and international communities; 3) we seek to build a strong sense of community within our teams. Each trip participant is required to attend a comprehensive training on our Christian call to service, how we serve responsibly, and ways our work away can extend to our lives back home.

Middle School: The group is on a two-year rotation: West Virginia with FLOC's Outdoor Education Center to learn about environmental stewardship and a week staying locally in D.C. to learn about outreach initiatives in our own neighborhood.

2018 Middle School Service Trip

When: July 14-17 Where: Washington, D.C.
 Service Partner: Capitol Hill Group Ministries, Anacostia Watershed Society, Sunday Suppers
 Service Work: Environmental Justice/Creation Care + Team Building
 Chaperones: Caleb Amaker Participants: 8 *Participants for 2015 service trip: 5*

High School

The high school trip is on a three-year rotation: a rural experience in Southern Appalachia with Appalachia Service Project, an urban experience in New York City with Youth Service Opportunities Project, and an international experience in Nicaragua with Fabretto Children's Foundation. These three unique experiences help broaden our worldview, expose us to lives that look radically different from our own, and inspire our youth to approach their place in the world with a passion for positive change rooted in empathy.

2018 High School Service Trip: Nicaragua

When: June 26-July 7 Where: Cusmapa, Nicaragua
 Service Partner: Fabretto Children's Foundation
 Service work: construction on greenhouse for children's education center.
 Chaperones: Matt Ossolinski, ML Wagner

2018 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, February 25, 2018

11:30 am Lunch *provided by the Vestry*

12 noon Annual Meeting

Agenda Item	Leader	Duration (minutes)	Time
Call to Order	The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, Rector, Presiding		12:00 pm
Opening Prayer		10	
Business Meeting			
Approval of Minutes, 2017 Annual Meeting			
Vestry Election			
Nominating Committee Report	Karen Wiedemann, Nominating Committee Chair		
Call for nominations from the floor		40	
Candidate Speeches			
Questions/Responses			
Vote (paper ballot)			
Staff Introduction	Michele Morgan	4	
State of the Parish Address	Michele Morgan and Nora Howell, Senior Warden	10	
Legacy Lions	Kenn Allen	5	
Capital Campaign	Rob Hall and Jackie Boddie, Co-Chairs	15	
Finance Report	Martha Huizenga, Treasurer	10	
Vestry Election: 2 nd Ballot (if needed)			
Diocesan Delegate Election			
Nominating Committee Report	Karen Wiedemann	5	
Call for nominations from the floor			
Vote			
Acknowledgements: Outgoing Vestry/Officers	Nora Howell	6	
Closing Prayer and Blessing	Michele Morgan	3	
Adjournment	Michele Morgan		

2:00 pm

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 for purposes of an election and has the right to vote if, at some time, in the 12 months preceding an election, that person has made a financial contribution to the Parish AND

- (a) been recorded in the register of the Parish as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church **OR**
- (b) affirmed her/his wish to be a member in a manner as determined by the Vestry of the Parish.

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.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES *Caroline McReynolds-Adams*

The mission of the Youth and Family Ministries program at St. Mark's is to be a welcoming and intentional space of spiritual formation for youth and their families through cohesive program offerings that emphasize outreach, art, worship, and education.

In addition to living more fully into our mission, our specific strategic goals for the 2017 year were as follows:

1) re-establish international service trip program for high school youth, 2) build second year rotation trip for Middle School service trip program, 3) offer comprehensive Confirmation class to 7th and 8th grade youth, 4) establish consistent monthly programming for families, 5) assess needs of families and children who attend the 5pm service and curate programming to meet those needs. With the help of many dedicated and passionate volunteers, all of our goals for 2017 were met and exceeded setting us up for another great year of growth and community building.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Worship

Family Eucharist: We continued to offer a monthly family Eucharist at the 9 o'clock service on the second Sunday of 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: This liturgy is under the rotating leadership Caroline McReynolds-Adams and various subs. Meeting every Sunday at 9am, this 'kid-friendly' service is designed for children ages two through six and encourages participation, ritual, shared prayer, and singing. We average 15 children in chapel from week to week, almost double our average from 2016. In the spring, we started offering Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of every month at the 5pm service where we average 4 children a month.

Christmas Pageant: We celebrated our traditional Christmas Pageant, with the help of our Mother-of-Mary, Kris Humphrey, and Mother-of-Joseph, Kim Arakawa. This year's baby Jesus was Emma Elizabeth Kalis, the daughter of Laura Athey-Press who herself played the role of Mary in St. Mark's pageant almost 20 years ago-a full circle experience! youth participants: 52 youth participants in 2016: 51

Christian Education/Sunday School

Sunday School: The Director of Youth & Family Ministries (DYFM) serves as a resource for the Sunday School program and teachers by coordinating and compiling registration for students and offering support for teachers in regards to teaching materials/curricula ideas and assisting with general weekly needs.

Confirmation Class: This has been traditionally offered every other year to 7th and 8th graders. The Rev. Michele Morgan and I co-taught this year's class using a curriculum that is adapted from Confirm Not Conform, a curriculum developed by the Episcopal Church. We had 9 youth, 5 of whom chose to be confirmed by the Bishop in a service on April 30, 2017.

A new addition to this year's class was the component of parish mentors for each class participant. Mentors and youth met three times over the course of the class to help the youth feel more connected to the St. Mark's community. Our mentors were Jessie Babcock, Tracy Council, Steve Dalzell, Tricia Eisner, Fritz Henn, Josie Jordan, Don Lipscomb, Jan Lipscomb, and Rita Ossolinski.

12th Grade Transitions Group: As part of the ongoing goal to establish rites of passages for youth to mark their journey in our community, we created a monthly group meeting for our high school seniors. Starting in the fall of 2016, the DYFM met with the six high school seniors once a month after Sunday school to offer support during this time of turbulent transition. The meetings are a casual time of reflection and connection. The class culminated with honoring our seniors at Banner Sunday service and celebration.

We are offering the group again in this 2017/18 school year for our next group of five graduating seniors.

Summer Sunday school: While our traditional classes were on a break, we offered a fun summer alternative for kids ages 3-10 from June 11 to August 27. This summer's theme was 'A Summer of Psalms and Service' which paired a different Psalm, service project, and art project each week. The art from this summer is displayed in the Catechesis hallway in the Turner Wing. Average attendance was 11 kids. This is organized by the DYFM and run by several volunteers.

Boys & Girls Choir (BGC) continued to experience success under the direction of Libbi Rivera Nixon. The group both gained and lost a few members over the year, maintaining roughly the same size. In response to requests from parents, we changed the choir's schedule so that instead of rehearsing every week for 45 minutes it now meets approximately every other week for 90 minutes. Conrad Chaffee, father of twin boys in the choir, has graciously continued to accompany the group on piano. Several members participated in a retreat in early September that included a variety of fun activities in addition to rehearsing and preparing for the season. Partway through the fall, I offered a mid-week meeting for BGC members to have additional rehearsal time on the music and also develop skills related to singing and 'solfege'. Three boys from the choir have met with me weekly for 50 minutes. In addition to singing about once per month, the Boys & Girls Choir also participated in the Advent Lessons & Carols service and some members sang during the Christmas Pageant service.

Teen Choir Nadine Hathaway generously volunteered to work with the Teen Choir nearly every week throughout the spring of 2017. The group sang about once per month and worked on a variety of skills related to singing and musicianship. Annadora Garner once again participated in the Royal School of Church Music summer camp in Pennsylvania. With only two singers able to continue in the fall, we decided to discontinue the Teen Choir for the time being.

Handbell Choir, led by Katherine Anderson and Sarah Headley, has continued bi-weekly rehearsals, working on a few pieces. The group is still focused less on performing during services and more on having fun and developing ringing skills with simpler repertoire. The ensemble has lost and gained about the same number of people, maintaining its current size. Handbells were most recently played alongside the Chancel Choir for two services in mid-February.

Instruments

The Holtkamp organ remains in fairly good working order with only minor problems over the past year. We have been told that the instrument will need cleaning and re-leathering relatively soon, which will be a large and expensive project. The acoustic pianos in the nave, Baxter Hall, and the Music Studio receive regular use and continue functioning well, as do the church's three digital pianos. The handbells are in satisfactory condition.

Other Music-related happenings

We have been hosting more concerts resulting in some additional income for the church. The increase has been made possible in large part with help from Parish Administrator James Rostron, who manages space use, deals with contracts, etc. This is one of the benefits of removing most of the responsibility of producing the weekly bulletins and announcements from his position, which occurred last summer.

Some of the ensembles hosted include Chiarina Chamber Players, Capitol Hill Chamber Music Festival, ArcoVoce, the Girls from the National Cathedral Choir, Folger 21st Century Consort, Armonia Nova, DC Concert Orchestra, and Polyhymnia Chamber Chorus. We hosted an especially complex concert in December, "The Passion of Scrooge" which required more logistics, planning, and other accommodations than typical concerts. We are happy to be developing the capacity to host more events like this in the future, thus expanding our presence in the community and bringing more new faces into the church for the first time.

I taught two stand-alone classes through the Christian Ed program in the fall that focused on singing techniques and the basics of reading music. These classes were well-received and were accompanied by requests for more music-related classes in the future.

'Hymns & Hoopla' and 'Carols & Cheer' hymn sings were held in September and December. The latter event included special guest Andy Barnett, a jazz pianist.

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 two-year term, which begins at the Annual Meeting in which they are elected and which extends to the Annual Meeting two years hence. The Wardens may be elected to a one-year extension on their term 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 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 an 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 s/he succeeds.

E. 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 records 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

With that explanation, I want you to know how thrilled I am to have *The Reverend Cindy Dopp* with us for the next three years. We will grow in this ministry together and I am thrilled to have a partner in pushing people back out into the world to do mission.

* *Deacon Intern Steve Seely*, 'in training', is here for six months and will go to his next placement in June.

Seminarian Andrew Arakawa is a 'middler' (ed. 2nd year seminarian) from the Diocese of Hawaii. I am so pleased to have him with us for this year through spring 2019. St. Mark's has a unique way of moving through the Episcopal world and I am hopeful that what Andrew will carry us with him as he moves out into the greater church.

Cleaning Contractor We are blessed with our day porter, Darak Tabron, and his ability to have rooms set up and stay on top of the basic cleaning of the building. We are still seeking some stability with our weekend porter and on supervising quarterly cleaning. James and Kenn are working hard on expectations for PMM, our contractor.

Pastoral Care Last year, I reported we are working at capacity, trying to keep up with the needs of an aging population. We are now one step behind and the loss of our Associate Rector has made the task a little more difficult. We continue to work to establish more people who can help with the care of folks. We continue focusing on this work and I am thankful for the Lay Visitors who visit the sick and those who cannot get to church.

Assistant Rector Search This committee is hard at work and I am grateful for the work of Kenn Allen, Steve Dalzell, Nora Howell, and Nancy Lucas as we go about finding our next clergy person. We hope to have someone in place in early summer and have an embarrassment of riches as we look at the candidates. More will be revealed and I am excited at the opportunity to have new clergy on board who will be a part of this community.

Our work continues and I am thrilled that we are called to do it here in this little corner of the "kindom" known as Capitol Hill.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

In March 2017, Rev. Schunior accepted the call to become the rector of St. Thomas + Denver (CO).

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC *Jeff Kempskie*

2017 was another excellent year for the music program. Each of the church's ensembles continued to expand their repertoire and improve the necessary skills to sing or ring to their fullest potential. We also hosted numerous concerts, gained new teachers in the music studio, and did a lot of behind-the-scenes work to help things run more smoothly and efficiently.

Chancel Choir is doing very well! One of the most noticeable developments over the past year has been the increased socializing among its members. This has partially come from the dozen-plus young people now singing, and partially from the addition of a once per month built-in hang-out after choir rehearsals which has grown increasingly popular.

Participation in the choir remained steady and strong (47 members), with an equal number of singers leaving and joining the group over the past year. The ensemble continues to benefit from having a regular paid tenor to help lead the section, allowing the group to consistently sing good quality repertoire (usually four-part harmony) and maintain its high standards. In addition to singing almost every Sunday morning (from September to early June), the choir sang Haydn's "Little Organ Mass" with a string trio in late March and an Evensong service in June. A group of women in their 20's and 30's rehearsed and sang several pieces over the summer.

The Summer Choir sang several Sundays, alternating with vocal solos. Many choir members attended a half-day retreat (an extended rehearsal with lunch) in late August. The group sang most of Rutter's "Requiem" the Sunday after All Saints' Day, an Advent Lessons & Carols service in December, and prepared and another Evensong service this month.

A variety of behind-the-scenes improvements to streamline procedures and organization have also continued to happen. One worth noting is the establishment of the "Friends of Music" group to help out with organizing, setting/cleaning up, and providing food and drinks for receptions after Evensongs and at the 'Hymns & Hoopla'/'Carols & Cheer' events.

STAFF REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT *The Rev. Michele H. Morgan*

This work is still a great joy to me and I feel blessed that I am the person who tends the altar in the midst of this community. I continue to be amazed at the willingness of this place to welcome the stranger and to live into the work that we have been called to do, about giving so freely what we have been given.

The lay volunteers with whom I work on a daily basis still inspire me to be present and to continue the work. Our Senior Warden, Nora Howell, and Junior Warden, Kenn Allen, are the most amazing folks and I feel called to show up and to be all the better for the example that they both set.

Worship Our Worship Planning Committee has been struggling to gather new people into the mix. If you feel that worship planning is something that you want to be a part of, want to be associate with (not come to the meeting but feel a pull to write liturgy), please feel free to step in and contact me or Worship Committee chairs, Mary DeNys and Jim Steed (stmarkspt@gmail.com).

Arts I feel strongly about connecting lovely art in our worship to the liturgy, especially thinking of the different Holy Families and all the ways that individuals, groups, and classes participated in the Advent exhibit. I hope we continue to pace our way through approaching the work of the people in a visual way as well as through music and prayers.

Staff I am blessed with an amazing group of people who work to make St. Mark's hum along. Jeff, Caroline and I are the ones here Sunday mornings so we tend to be the face of the staff but we are blessed to have the support of Patricia, James, and Katherine.

- * *Patricia Schans* works to keep our finances clear, concise and on point so we know how much money comes in and goes out of the parish, knows where everything is, or will by the end of the business day. It is a gift to have someone as persistent and clear as Patricia who is willing to go the extra step for parishioners and rectors alike.
- * *James Rostron* is our Admin and came with an easy going manner and a clear way of setting up systems. James has a way of making things work and tracking massive amounts of information. It is a gift that he has and a light touch as he works with the groups and people who use our space as well as with parishioners looking for an answer to their questions.
- * *Katherine Parr Philipson* is our bulletin coordinator and her ability to notice and make adjustments on the massive amount of written material is impressive.
- * *Jeff Kempskie* is the longtime glue holding St. Marks together; a man who cares deeply about the worship experience, the desire to have the choir sing accessible and challenging music and, most of all, a teacher who steps in to create beauty in worship Sunday after Sunday. I am so happy I get to collaborate with him and we are lucky to have him as Director of Music.
- * *Caroline McReynolds-Adams* is truly gifted as someone who wants to journey with your children as they continue to make meaning within this faith community. Her goal is to help the children and teens of this parish grow up being connected, compassionate adults with a faith story they understand enough to lean on and draw from. I feel blessed that she and I get to co-create and we are blessed to have her as our Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

Deaconate The Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC has started a Deacon School, training people in our diocese, as they revive this ministry. As Archdeacon Sue Von Rautenkranz says, "The priest (pastor and teacher) invites people into community for feeding and nurture while the deacon pushes you back out into the world to do mission. The canons (of the Church) require that deacons receive academic training in scripture, theology, and the traditions of the church," von Rautenkranz says. "Our diocese is requiring basic survey courses in Old and New Testament, church history—including Anglican and Episcopal Church history—ethics and systematic theology."

Reverend Susan Walker reports, "With so many deacons being ordained in the next few years, it will be an eye opener. We're not 'junior priests', and we're not taking anything away from priests or laity. It is a calling, not just what I want to do but what God is calling me to do."

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 VIII 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.

These bylaws were adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting, April 3, 1964 and amended at the Annual Parish meetings of:

- April 16, 1971, April 7, 1972, April 23, 1976, April 15, 1977, April 16, 1982, April 8, 1988
- April 19, 2002 (election of Diocesan Delegates)
- April 18, 2004 (extension of term for Treasurer)
- April 19, 2009 (timing of Annual Meeting)
- March 15, 2015 (definition of membership)
- Last amended: March 26, 2017 (Wardens' term)

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

DRAFT – for approval at the 2018 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the rector, The Rev. Michele H. Morgan. The opening prayer was offered by the Associate Rector, The Rev. Justi Schunior.

Establishment of a Quorum: The tellers reported a quorum was present with 190 eligible voters in attendance.

2016 Minutes: The minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were approved by voice vote.

Vestry Elections: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Steve Dalzell reported that two Vestry members would be elected for three-year terms and one for a one-year term to fill out the term of a Vestry member who resigned. There were six candidates: Jim Brooks, Jane Byrne, Tracy Council, Jenifer Holland, Peter Nye, and Alix Pereira. Candidate Jenifer Holland specified that she was a candidate for only the one-year term. There were no further nominations from the floor and the nominations were closed. Jack Burton was appointed to serve as timekeeper.

Each candidate was asked to address two questions: What is your vision for St. Mark's? How would you address the challenges facing the church in the next few years? Each candidate made a personal statement and addressed the questions, following which the first ballot was cast by paper ballots.

State of the Parish: The Rector announced that the Associate Rector has been called to be rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church+Denver (CO) and expressed her gratitude for Justi's service to St. Mark's. She also expressed appreciation for the outstanding work being done for the parish by staff members Jeff Kempkie (and the choir), Caroline McReynolds Adams, Patricia Schans (Finance Officer), and Andrea Woods (Parish Administrator).

Rev. Morgan noted that 25% of 2017 pledges have already been paid but that income is likely to slow down in the summer. Rentals of space in the building are running ahead of schedule. She reminded us the parish still owes \$1 million on its debt costing us \$70,000 a year and needs to be paid off as soon as possible. Finance Officer Patricia Schans reported that more than \$4,000 in 2016 pledges have yet to be received. A new data base has been installed for data management and new ways are being explored to enable people to contribute electronically.

The Rector also expressed her appreciation to Raiford Gaffney and Bill Dickinson for their service as Diocesan Delegates and to Treasurer Andrew Stafford and Assistant Treasurer Martha Huizenga for their work.

She observed that the congregation is growing but needs to keep reaching out, especially by doing more pastoral care and staying in contact with newcomers and long-time members who are drifting away.

Among things that are going well, she noted specifically:

- The Belongings Class
- The 'Mary and Child' Advent art project
- Growing attendance at 9, 11:15 and 5 o'clock services all year
- Growing Children's Service
- The 'Walking with Jesus' program in Holy Week

birthday cake to celebrate those that have had a birthday since the last Potluck or those who will have a birthday before the next Potluck.

In May, our own parishioner, Penny Hansen, presented *Race Issues in the Roberts Court*. In September, the Third Agers co-sponsored a live webcast with Atul Gawande author of *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Conveners: Susan Sedgewick, Don Gangloff.

The Winged Lion Review: *A Journal of the St. Mark's Community* completed its second full year of publication, putting out a half-dozen issues during the parish year. The co-editors sought to reflect this mission statement: "The Review is designed to be a forum where St. Mark's members can step back from the hectic pace of parish life and to share ideas about our life together in a thoughtful, more personal way. Our vision for the Review, as developed along with senior parish leaders, is to offer a forum where people can state their views on major issues before the community, reflect on their own lives and display their creative talents." The Review focused on articles by parishioners about important activities and events, such as reports on the most recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land and on a presentation on the effects of climate change on the District Columbia sponsored by the Green Lions. Editors: Karen Falk, Hank Donnelly

Woman to Woman creates opportunities for St. Mark's women to meet, learn, laugh, share stories and strengthen bonds of friendship through special events. Events this year included: a fellowship discussion on breast cancer, a bra drive, challenges and opportunities facing women in the Middle East and North Africa (with Middle East Working Group), and homeless women in DC. Convener: Edna Boone.

Capitol Hill House Tour Last May, for the first time in nearly a decade, we hosted the community as their final stop on this annual event and the first time the community was encouraged to visit our new space. Visitors were guided to the nave as the entry point to enjoy the sun pouring through the newly-restored windows and a small exhibit on the window work, to see a print of the painting that inspired our Tiffany window, to walk through the expanded undercroft and enjoy refreshments in Baxter Hall. At least two dozen parishioners welcomed more than 200 neighborhood guests over the 3-hour span as tour guides and refreshment hosts with Mary Cooper being our on-site expert on the nave windows. Many both admired and expressed interest in the building, seeing it for the first time, and the activities we offered. Doris Burton, chair.



Christ Leaving the Praetorium

Note: There was no fall dance this year due to a scheduling conflict.

There were no reports from the following groups: 20s & 30s, Caregivers, Caregivers Support Group, and the Women's Investment Network.

Archives and Parish History Committee continues organizing the archives, storing old documents and pictures in appropriate containers, and installing commemorative plaques. The APHC organized the Verna Dozier 100th Birthday Celebration Commemoration in Baxter Hall which included photo displays of Verna's life, work, and material from the Women's March in January 2017. Current projects include updating Bert Cooper's 2010 history of the building on the website and preparing one-page guides to the stained glass windows. Chair: Doris Burton; Kenn Allen, Mary Cooper, Cecilia Monahan, members

College of Crustaceans (Crab Feast) The Annual 4th of July (read that date loosely) Crab Feast is put on by the College of Crustaceans, a contingent of congregants the church has recognized with loving humor as crabbily coaxing us into better ways of crab-walking in the world. 2016 Crab of the Year, Jack Burton, his crustacean crown on his cranium, captivated the crowd as he choreographed the crabby climate for the luncheon feast of crabs, corn, and watermelon. Comically creating all kinds of commotion, the College of Crustaceans conceived of all kinds of comic nominations for Jack's successor. In the end, the College conferred the crab net scepter and crabby corona to Heather Powers (perhaps the only congregant to have done the sacred liturgy of departure TWICE... & returned again and again)! The complete list of all Crabs hangs in Baxter Hall above the piano. No campaigning for Crab of the Year is permitted and any attempt excludes that person for life. Contact: Doris Burton, Jim Steed, or any living COTY.

Dozier Library Committee improved the collection with items donated by Jessie Babcock, Kitty Donnelly, Janice and Neal Gregory, and Arnold Taylor. We created an online catalog so parishioners can search the collection from the comfort of their home. We also created a section about the library on the church website including information about Verna Dozier for whom the library is named. For the celebration of Verna's life and ministry last October, we created a display of books by or about her, including two new binders featuring selected sermons, addresses, and articles by her, drawn from the Dozier Archives at the Virginia Theological Seminary. The binders are now part of the circulating collection. Convener: Peter Hawley.

Lambda Lions, our LGBT affinity group, met in January to plan an upcoming gala art show and sale honoring one of our founding members, the late David Evelyn. Rob Hall, Convener

Lichfield Link We have had a friendship relationship with the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Chad at Lichfield, in the British Midlands, since 1989. Over the years, visits by their choir to us and ours to Lichfield, a pilgrimage to religious sites in the UK, visits to one another on special occasions (installation of a new dean, dedication of the new space in 2014, etc). as well as exchanges of gifts (the Lichfield processional cross and verge, and a communion set created by a parishioner who was a MacArthur Genius grant winner) maintained the connection for many years. The link has been less active in recent years because of changes in administrations on both sides of the pond but we are still welcomed there (and hopes of another choir tour continue) and they here. If you are interested in a friendship exchange with Lichfield parishioners or would like to visit (home stays are possible), please contact our link rep, Doris Burton.

Middle-Timers held a potluck discussion dinner in the fall at Sean and Julie Murphy's home and to organize Mardi Gras dinner/dance on Friday, February 9th. Conveners: Linda Staheli, Julie Murphy, and Rob Hall

St. Mark's Film Group meets at the home of John and Nancy Yanish on the third Friday of each month to watch classic, independent, or foreign films. A highlight of our 2017 season included a screening of "Born Yesterday" introduced by local film critic and author, Mike Canning. Other films screened in 2017 included "Frozen River," "Bedazzled," "The Big Heat," "Five Easy Pieces," and "Now Voyager." Membership continues to be open, with an average of 6-10 people in attendance every month. Conveners: Alicia Ruble, John Yanish, and Nancy Yanish

Reading Group is for avid readers and meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Dozier Library at 12:30 pm with a brown bag lunch. Five or six folks come for a lively discussion of the chosen book then select the book for the next month. All are invited! Convener: Linda Ewald

Third Agers have three mid-day Saturday potlucks each year for those aged 60 and above but the potlucks are open to all. Lunch is followed by a program, often with piano music provided by John Spaulding. There's a

- The arrival of a seminarian this year
- Beginning the search for a new Assistant Rector later in the year
- The Bishop's visit on April 30
- Improvements to the sound system
- Parent gatherings helping people find support for multigenerational issues.

Vestry Election results (first ballot): The Nominating Committee announced that Jim Brooks, Tracy Council, and Alix Pereira were elected to three-year terms on the first ballot.

Vestry election: One-year Term: Registered voters were asked to cast their votes by paper ballot for the remaining one-year term from among Jane Byrne, Jenifer Holland, and Peter Nye.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws: Doris Burton, Junior Warden, and Peter Sherer, Senior Warden sponsored the following:

We offer an amendment to the Parish Bylaws, requesting it be placed before the membership on March 26, 2017 and that it take effect immediately, thereby applying to the wardens elected March 26, 2017:

(Article IV, Par. 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 two-year term, which begins at the Annual Meeting in which they are elected and which extends to the Annual Meeting two years hence. The Wardens may serve a one-year extension on their term before becoming ineligible to serve in the same office until the lapse of two years after the end of such terms.

It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously to consider the amendment.

Janet Vail moved that the second sentence be amended to read: "The Wardens may **be elected to** serve a one-year extension on their terms before becoming ineligible to serve in the same office until the lapse of two years after the end of such terms." This clarifying amendment was unanimously **APPROVED**.

A motion to close debate passed and the motion to amend the Bylaws was **APPROVED**.

Treasurer's Report: Martha Huizenga reported that St. Mark's is the sixth largest among the 89 churches in the diocese. The average parish has 100 pledgers; we have almost 300. Attendance at St. Mark's is well above the diocesan average although we are losing members due to aging/moving out of the area. Three-fourths of the budget goes to staff salaries and benefits. Kathryn Powers reported that a new group called the Legacy Lions is being formed to encourage planned giving.

Election Results: Jenifer Holland was elected to serve the one-year term on the Vestry.

Election of Wardens: Nora Howell was the sole candidate for Senior Warden. The floor was open for nominations and, seeing none, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations be closed.

Nora addressed the challenges the parish faces and her vision for the future. She noted that the canvass saw 28 new pledges but that about 50 per year are needed.

Kenn Allen was the sole candidate for Junior Warden. The floor was open for nominations and, seeing none, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations be closed.

Kenn outlined building issues that the Vestry would need to address in the coming year, including reconstruction of the Third Street garden, replacement of the HVAC system for the nave and Turner Wing, preservation of the nave, a capital campaign, and helping the staff and volunteers work together on hospitality.

Nora Howell and Kenn Allen were elected to the positions of Senior Warden and Junior Warden by voice vote.

Election of Diocesan Delegates: There were two open slots for Diocesan Delegates, one for three years and one for a single year. The candidates were Michael Knipe and Cecilia Monahan (who was absent and represented by Kit Arrington). The floor was open for nominations and, seeing none, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the

nominations be closed. Votes were cast by paper ballot.

Expressions of Appreciation: Retiring Senior Warden Peter Sherer expressed appreciation for Janet Gregory and his Advisory Committee. Doris Burton thanked the Fabric Committee for their support and work. The Rector thanked the retiring Vestry officers and members and presented each with a book.

Diocesan Delegate Election Result: The tellers announced that Cecelia Monahan was elected to the three-year term as Diocesan Delegate, with Michael Knipe receiving the one-year term.

The closing prayer was offered by the Rector.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper

VESTRY REPORTS

SENIOR WARDEN *Nora Howell*

I was blessed to take over as Senior Warden at a time when we are coming out of a long transition of building renovation, saying good bye to our previous rector and calling a new one – and I heartily thank all those who worked so hard and unselfishly to bring about such wonderful results for us. There are many to thank but the list is headed by these three: The Reverend Michele Morgan, our rector, Peter Sherer, my predecessor, and Kenn Allen, who co-chaired V2020 and is now our Junior Warden. Where we are, what you see around you every Sunday, is very much the result of their efforts.

We joyfully greeted our Bishop Mariann Budde as she installed our 12th Rector, Michele Morgan, last April. The Bishop movingly spoke of our huge mutual blessings: we are blessed by Michele's presence and she by us. Bishop Mariann reminded us that St. Mark's isn't done yet, and neither is Michele. We've now settled in with Michele and are adjusting to what we hope will be a long-term relationship. At the parish retreat, we asked Michele to describe what she thinks we might look like in five years: what is her vision for us? We broke into small groups to discuss ways we might achieve that vision. We came away with general thoughts and specific actions as a place to start. From my perspective, we are mightily blessed by the care that she has shown to us in our times of need, her generosity of spirit, her challenging sermons, personal example of how to live and care for others, and her encouragement to us to get ourselves "outside ourselves" in so many ways.

We have focused on membership with wonderful results. As Peter mentioned last year in his Senior Warden's report, in the past we have averaged about 15 new members in a year. However, in the year between October 2016 and October 2017, we attracted 33 new pledging members. AND, in the 4 months since the 2018 Canvass started last fall, we have ALREADY attracted 36 more. So, a huge thanks to all: who provide hospitality, who arrange greeters and ushers and sit at the welcome table, and who organized and participated in the 4th of July Parade and the Barracks Row Festival. But wait, there's more: thanks to those who lead and sing in the choir, organize and teach adult classes, teach Sunday school, organize and lead youth activities and trips, organize and support Sunday Suppers and sandwich-making, make name tags and remind us to wear them, keep this beautiful building running smoothly and make it so welcoming. ALL are important as we open our doors and carry forward our message of inclusion and welcome and care. And, clearly, our increasing membership numbers testify to the positive results, so we all need to keep it up! Especially in the area of hospitality, we need to offer refreshments after all services, and a meal after the 11:15 service when people are hungry for lunch. I'm so grateful that the Vestry said yes when they were asked to commit to provide hospitality once a quarter – that's the challenge for ALL church groups: sign up to host a Sunday Lunch once a quarter.

Finances: Our Treasurer's report explains the factors that resulted in an extraordinary end to 2017. We are being prudent and conservative in following the recommendations of our accountant and treasurers in setting aside some of the funds as a reserve against future needs plus increasing our giving to the diocese and other causes. The Vestry is working on a policy to establish priorities for the allocation of future surpluses, something that we realized just this year we need to do.

- Fall registration was held on Saturday September 2, 2017 from 9:00 AM – Noon. For the first time in 54 years we held registrations on one Saturday only because of a major event in the area the next weekend. Since it worked out for us and for our vendor we will use that same time frame for 2018.
- We registered 99 children with many taking more than one class, an average of eight per class. We registered 59 adults with many taking multi classes...average of almost five per class.
- Our annual Open House on Friday December 1, 2017 was a hit with the audience. We gave them an insight as to what goes on backstage. We had dancers, musicians, and a singer and with help from Jerry Dale from the St. Mark's Players we presented a show about the arts.

The Yoga Studio celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2018. The first director, Amanda Putnam, send archival materials providing details on the history of the Center. STYC remains dedicated to its foundational goal of providing yoga for those seeing peace within. Joining the Accessible Yoga network this year, the Center seeks to share the benefits of yoga with all, regardless of ability or background. Monthly Yoga Nidra (Deep Relaxation) continues to be popular as was a "Finding Joy" workshop in June. A September fundraiser for Swami Gurusharanananda's orphanage school in India drew 45 attendees and raising \$425. The Center met its annual use fee commitment of \$1200 to the church.



Teachers Paul Orum, Aviva Kutnick, Narayani Gubisch, Christine Romero, Vera Oyé Yaa--Anna, Pamela Wilson, and Bonnie Kendrick welcome visiting Swami Gurusharanananda

Music Studio *Jeff Kempskie, Director*

Voice teacher Kellie McHugh, who had more than a dozen students and taught through the studio for five years, discontinued most of her teaching at the church in the fall. In addition to our other voice teacher, Adam Caughey, we brought in new voice teacher, Diane Atherton, and a new piano teacher, Stephanie Ng, both of whom have started building their studios and finding new students. Over the summer, we changed the way we handle finances with the Studio now allowing teachers to be paid directly instead of having money first go through the church, which has reduced paperwork and simplified things.

PARISH LIFE *Nancy Yanish, Brandon Knight Co-Conveners*

Parish Life is a ministry that focuses on building community, and supporting programs and events that allow parishioners to connect with one another on social, pastoral, spiritual, and emotional levels. There are many groups represented within Parish Life that play an integral part in making St. Mark's a vibrant, involved, active parish.

Answering Angel service continues to support the staff in the office suite. Twenty volunteers answer the phone, receive visitors, sign for deliveries and other tasks as requested. If you are interested in volunteering for a day/time, contact Bob Ewald.

work of TCP also helps to protect the fragile environment of Honduras, where the worldwide effects of climate change are dramatically evident.

In 2017, TCP celebrated 10 years of operation. Over these years, Roy and the TCP families have reached significant milestones:

- 150,000 trees have been planted;
- A variety of nutritious food crops, employing natural fertilizers, have been introduced for consumption and sale;
- Families have learned new methods to preserve food using a solar dryer and to prepare products such as mango marmalade and yucca pastries to eat and to sell at the market; and
- Roy helped organize a successful Seed Fair in central park of the city of Santa Barbara. Native seeds were exchanged between representatives from the TCP communities and from 12 other organizations from the National Association for the Promotion of Organic Farming.

The support of St. Mark's for the Trinidad Conservation Project over these past 10 years has been critical and has yielded many positive results in one of our region's poorest countries.

ARTS COUNCIL *Tracy Council, Convener*

The Arts Council was created in the 1990s to gather arts-related programs under one umbrella. The Yoga Center and the Dance Studio are among the oldest activities in the parish and have the distinct honor of being the heaviest and most consistent space 'users' of our building. Over the years, the Council has sponsored art shows/sales and similar projects. Art shows dwindled after the death of Visual Arts convener, David Evelyn. Anyone interested in leading that or another arts-related group should contact the convener.

This year, the Arts Council began to re-organize and re-energize.

Visual Arts

June: At the all-parish retreat at Claggett, Tracy Council led a "box journal" art reflection process to help participants reflect and learn from their experiences.

September: At the parish picnic, for the second consecutive year, the Arts Council led the creation of personal Prayer Flags displayed on the courtyard fences for several weeks as a gesture of welcome and outreach to the community.

December: At the suggestion of Michele Morgan, the Arts Council organized a progressive art installation for Advent. Parishioners volunteered to create a work of art on the theme of "Icons of Holy Families." Using found objects, collage, and traditional painting media, eleven parishioners created artworks mounted in salvaged dresser drawers that were displayed in the nave through the Advent and Christmas seasons.

1. *Saint Adea*, by Elin Whitney-Smith
2. *Star Dancers*, by Chuck Divine
3. *Puerto Rico*, by Marilu Sherer and Tracy Council
4. *Hope*, by Betty Foster
5. *Sketch of Holy Family* by Karen Woodall
6. *Rohingya Refugee Families*, by Lucy Brown
7. *Recovering Our Selves*, Martha Connor-Donnelly
8. *Take Courage*, Amber Macdonald
9. *The Babies and the Ancestors*, by Tracy Council
10. *The St. Mark's Family*, by Lynda Bugge and Penny Farley

Dance Studio *Rosetta "Rosie" Brooks, Director*

- April 9, 2017: The Dance Studio participated in the two Palm Sunday services with Jeff Kempkie directing the choir and musicians.
- May 14, 2017 (Mother's Day): Two teens performed during the Capitol Hill House tour visits by the community.
- The Studio held two recitals on Saturday, June 3, 2017: young children at 11:00 AM and the teens and adults at 2:30 PM. Both were very well attended with a pot luck reception at the end of the afternoon.

2018 Canvass: The Stewardship report has the details, but I want to thank Michele for her imaginative vision for this year's Canvass. Thanks to Alix Pereira, Jen Dalzell, and the Vestry for their help in the execution of the vision. The results so far are very good: as of February 8, 2018, we have \$862,000 pledged, and therefore only need 2% more to achieve our goal of \$880,000. Reminder: if you haven't pledged yet for 2018, please do so -- let's get to 100%!!

Capital Campaign: We begin with a goal of \$1.5M to (1) cover some critical structural needs in the parts of the building that were not affected by Vision 2020, (2) to pay down or pay off the mortgage we took out as a part of Vision 2020, and (3) make a significant contribution to a cause yet to be identified. These are all related: maintain our historic buildings, get our mortgage down to free up funds to do more good in the world, and to look outside ourselves, to share our bounty with people less fortunate than we are.

Assistant Rector: Steve Dalzell is leading the search with hope s/he will be in place by 1 July. We are looking for someone with the skills and experience needed to not only share in pastoral and other clergy duties that Michele is bearing alone but also to take on some of the administrative duties as well. Along those lines, we are also collaborating with Michele to bring some efficiencies to the last few processes that need a bit of work: personnel policies, website, etc.

I am very grateful to work with such a strong lay team supporting our new rector and each other. Our Vestry members have shown their devotion by greeting, ushering, providing hospitality, and liaising with Parish Pillars. All the while, they see themselves as your representatives and I am so grateful for their insights and energy. Thanks to current Vestry members Jenifer Holland, Doug Jackson, Karen Wiedemann, Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Beth Mahood, Jim Brooks, Tracy Council, and Alix Pereira. Thanks also to our officers: Register Mary Cooper, Treasurer Martha Huizenga, Assistant Treasurer John Edwards, Manciple and Legal Counsel Michael Knipe, Risk Manager George Meng, and, of course, my very experienced, effective, and extraordinary partner, Kenn Allen. He held my job from '07-'09 and, as I have often said to Michele, her lay leadership team is much stronger because of everything Kenn brings to it.

I've named and thanked 19 people. In addition, there are 74 other parishioners who volunteer as group leaders (Outreach, Christian Ed, Worship, Parish Life, Membership, Communications), altar guild, vergers, counters -- I could go on but will stop there. Anyone who wonders about the vibrancy and energy of this parish or the love we bring to it should just consider that there are about 100 members today who have said "yes" when asked to help in some way. It's an amazing place, and I thank each and every one of you for all you do.

JUNIOR WARDEN *Kenn Allen*

The Junior Warden is responsible for use and upkeep of our physical plant. This year, that role expanded to include assisting in managing and sustaining Sunday hospitality. As is tradition, it also meant being a member of the Executive Committee with the Rector and Senior Warden. The Junior Warden works collaboratively with and is supported by a wide cast of people. Tremendous thanks go to those in formal support roles without whom the past year would have been infinitely more challenging:

- The Fabric Committee – Michael Bloomfield, Pete Eveleth, Don Gangloff, Fritz Henn, Christina Herman, Michael Knipe, Michele Morgan, Kathryn Powers, Jack Richards, Charlie Rupp, Andy Wenchel
- Michael Knipe, Manciple (with special plaudits for solving the mysteries of the stove and making it possible for more of us to make use of it)
- Kathryn Powers, Gardener-in-Chief
- Andrea Wood, Eva Dalzell and James Rostron who ably filled the Parish Administrator position over the course of the year
- The Rector and the Senior Warden

...and to all who have been willing to pitch in as needed to assume leadership and operational responsibilities as required. And a special thank you and hug for my spouse, Maureen Shea, who has put up with it all, has become a proud carrier of "the keys" to fill in when I am away and regularly works to keep the kitchen clean and the contents of the refrigerators under control.

We completed a very smooth transition from Doris Burton's tremendous two years as Junior Warden to what was a period of rapid learning for me. Doris did a great job, got a lot done and left almost everything in very good shape, which made my life much easier than it might otherwise have been. We also welcomed James Rostron as our new Parish Administrator. Although he has only been with us for a few months, James has settled in quickly, has conquered the master calendar and the management of outside events, and is learning quickly the intricacies of the building and its systems. We are truly blessed to have him as part of our team.

MAJOR WORK OVER THE PAST YEAR

1. The Newly Installed 3rd Street Garden We completed planning, design and installation of what was formerly known as the 3rd Street Parking (note: an old term referring to a garden along a street). The new garden had its roots in the bequest of Suella Henn, half of which Fritz Henn committed to helping pay down the mortgage principal and half for what was originally conceived as a rain garden. When the realities of the latter were too great to overcome, Fritz and Kathryn Powers, our Gardener-in-Chief, worked with landscape architect Gary Hallewell on the current design. It has received rave reviews from parishioners, neighbors, visitors and passersby. Come spring, the 250 or so bulbs that Kathryn and Fritz planted will bring it into its full blooming glory. It will be formally dedicated then.

2. Hospitality for Others and for Ourselves Our hospitality to those outside came into its own full bloom. We began 2017 in January with the hospitality provided Inauguration Day and the next day, for the Women's March – the two together bringing almost 3,000 people into the building. We ended it in December with the juxtaposition of the 5th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence and a series of holiday parties.

Looking at the list of who paid to use space in 2017, we find 11 weddings or wedding-related events, 20 arts events, 15 meetings and events by advocacy organizations, 6 fundraisers, 4 holiday parties, 2 birthday parties and 1 Bat Mitzvah. We now have three AA groups, a toddlers Saturday music program, a toddlers indoor soccer program and just now beginning the Adams Room as rehearsal space for the Folger Theater.

It is safe to say that at least 6,000 people came through St Mark's in 2017 for these events, generating some \$65,000 in space use fees. And, of course, we had the ongoing activities of the Dance Studio, yoga and the Players in addition to our Sunday and Thursday services, Sunday school and adult classes, choir practice, the Music Studio and interminable meetings. We are off to a strong start already this calendar year with significant bookings for spring through fall.

We see that the investment we made, the risks we took, and the work we did in Vision 2020 to create our new space while maintaining our old is paying significant dividends to the broader community as well as to us.

We also have sustained our hospitality to one another through the 10:45 AM Sunday coffee hour, Sunday lunch and the post-5:00 PM service reception. While we have not had 100% coverage for all three activities, we are running at about 85% thanks to the willingness of individuals, couples, families, ad hoc groups and formal parish program groups to step up, sign up and serve up. Through the corps of baristas and 'grounds crew', organized and managed by Doris Burton, we have managed to provide coffee and juice virtually every Sunday morning.

3. Ongoing Maintenance We continue our contract with Monarc Construction to oversee the maintenance and repairs of the building. This includes scheduling, managing and interpreting the results of regular inspections of everything from fire extinguishers to the HVAC system, the boilers, the fire alarm and the elevator. Significant repairs in the past year include lighting in the nave and Adams Room, tracing and resolving the bothersome fire alarm ground fault, repairs to the boiler and installation of flush levers on the first floor toilets. We know from past experience it is important to keep up with ongoing maintenance needs. Delay only causes more damage and greater expense to repair in the future. Thus, in the year ahead, we will be doing touch up painting and identified minor repairs throughout the building.

Meetings: Third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Rectors' Room.

Goals:

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

Major activities:

- Co-presenting *The Dry Season*, a film on climate change-induced drought and related issues from the National Geographic series "Years of Living Dangerously," co-sponsored with the St. Mark's Mid East Working Group (MEWG);
- Making signs and marching in the Climate March on the National Mall in April 2017;
- Hosting Tommy Wells, Director of the District Department of Energy & Environment, who discussed how D.C. is preparing for climate change and what churches might do to help;
- Providing a representative to the Fabric Committee and recommending green cleaning products for the church.

MID EAST WORKING GROUP (MEWG)

Maureen Shea, Jennifer Cate, Chris Herman, Karen Getman, and Mandy Paust, Members

It has been another busy year for MEWG as the challenges to finding peace and justice in the Middle East grow more difficult and also make it even more important to keep raising awareness about the situation and what role activists can play.

Refugee Family: Karen Getman led our work with other Capitol Hill faith communities in cooperation with Lutheran Social Services / National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) to welcome and support the Rasooly family from Afghanistan as they began their new life in Cheverly, MD. We host regular coordinating meetings of all those involved and are grateful to the many St. Mark's members who have helped to furnish apartments and volunteered for a number of jobs. The Outreach Board gave \$2,950 to the project through the sale of Good Neighbor signs. We are exploring new ways to support and engage the Rasoolys and other refugee families.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: In October, Karen and Tom Getman led our third dual narrative tour to Palestine and Israel, with time also in Jordan. The group presented our Good Friday Offering of \$1,500 to Archbishop Dawani in Jerusalem where it will be used to help the institutions of the diocese, such as schools and clinics. The trip included meetings with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists as well as visits to the Holy Sites and a "report back" to the parish on December 10, 2017.

Communications: Mandy Paust handles our email communication and Facebook page, through which MEWG kept up a steady stream of information about the many events in the metropolitan area that offer different perspectives on aspects of the Middle East. We joined Churches for Middle East Peace.

Events: We again hosted panel discussions with 'New Story Leadership' and 'Hands Across the Nile', as well as an evening with 'Jewish Voice for Peace'. We continue to encourage support for Mosaic Theater and its program, 'Voices from a Changing Middle East'. We sponsored a Sunday lunch on December 3, 2017.

Advent/Christmas: Through the sale of olive oil, ornaments, and nativity scenes, we supported Palestinian olive farmers and artisans with the profits designated for the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. On December 16, 2017 we joined others at the National Cathedral for the 11th Annual Simulcast with the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. For the Christmas greening nativity scenes, we decorated a window sill with figures of a Palestinian family in traditional dress.

In the coming year, we look to expand our membership as we seek to engage more people on these vital issues at St. Mark's and beyond.

THE TRINIDAD CONSERVATION PROJECT - HONDURAS (TCP)

The Trinidad Conservation Project (TCP) continued to make remarkable progress in promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the mountain villages of the department (region) of Santa Barbara in Honduras. Roy Lara and his team on the ground promote these techniques to participating families, providing them with needed income. The

advocating sustainable, community-led, locally-based human and economic development and environmental stewardship activities. Funds were sent to Groundswell International to be overseen and distributed for TCP. (See further description of activities/support below)

Salvation Army Grate Patrol (\$1260) brings an evening meal to homeless neighbors 365 nights a year and serves more than 3,000 people each month. Our volunteers, primarily parents and children, have supported this effort for many years, making sandwiches and bagging meals on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) (\$5300) partners with people who are homeless, living in poverty or with HIV/AIDS, to help them meet their goals (obtaining employment, housing, and health care, etc.) through case management and support services. Our parishioners volunteered at SMGW as caseworkers, resume writers, and front office coordinators. Throughout the year, we donated 128 bags of groceries and toiletries to SMGW from our altar baskets.

Sunday Suppers, Sunday Suppers Support Team and Soup Kitchen Activities (\$860) has gone from a fledgling program to a strong, reliable ministry over the course of 2017. The most important change was the donation of a van to Sunday Suppers by parishioner, Betty Foster, and her family. The new van has allowed Sunday Suppers to have reliable transportation for people as well as tables, chairs, and all other supplies. Sunday Suppers also made a successful move to a new single location in order to serve more people. In the spring, summer and fall months, Sunday Suppers serves 50-70 people. In the winter months, Sunday Suppers serves 15-30 people. St. Mark's has covered the 3rd Sunday of every month providing hot meals, eggs, sandwiches, and volunteers to serve. The eggs and sandwiches are purchased with Outreach Board funds, and parishioners donate food for the hot meal. In addition to providing a monthly meal and fellowship, we manage the coverage for all other Sundays through a collaboration with Kingstowne Communion, Church of the Nativity, Aldersgate United Methodist, and many outside-of-church volunteers.

The Sunday Suppers Support Team met monthly and prepared and delivered 1,920 sandwiches to the Sunday Suppers project at Franklin Square in downtown DC. Soup Kitchen activities continued to twice-monthly promote delivery of parishioner-prepared monthly casseroles and donation of leftover food from church events for the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church on Seward Square SE.

Funded Programs in Addition to the Outreach Pillar Annual Budget
(private donations to Outreach Board-supported activities)

Lenten Mite Box Project (\$1622.44) contributed to Planned Parenthood to support local programs.

Good Neighbor Refugee Program (\$2,950) Funds raised through the sale of Good Neighbor yard signs. All proceeds went to support the Good Neighbor Refugee Program. (See further description below in "Mid East Working Group (MEWG)).

Hurricane Relief /Texas Diaper Bank (\$2643): funds raised to support Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

Advent Greening (\$1598) used its savings in cost to contribute to Bright Beginnings, a local nonprofit that operates child and family development centers for homeless children in Washington, DC.

The following affiliated programs are supported but not administered by the Outreach Board

GREEN LIONS

Pamela Blumgart and Christina Herman, Co-Chairs; Betsy Agle, Sis McKay, Michele Rivard, Iris Goodman, Judy Hall, Victoria Doyon, Brandon Knight, Members

Green Lions was founded in the late 1980s by a group interested in organizing St. Mark's efforts to become better environmental stewards. After years of inactivity following the departure of the founders/leaders, the group re-organized in October 2011. The Vestry approved the Green Lions charter in June 2012.

We also continue our contract with PMM for janitorial services. We now have excellent Monday through Friday service from Darak Tabron who was with us through much of 2017. Darak also supervises most of the after-hours resets of the Nave and has become a valued and responsive member of our overall team. For Saturdays and Sundays, we have recently welcomed Ana Contreras who is rapidly settling into our routines. Please, when you meet them, thank them for their work for us.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Ensuring that St. Mark's is here well into the future is a continuing responsibility. We have been addressing it over the past several months and will continue to do so through professional planning, careful allocation of resources and ongoing vigilant preventive maintenance. Here are our four highest priorities.

1. Replacement of the HVAC system for the Nave and original undercroft (Turner Wing): The current system is more than 25 years old and slowly dying. Replacing it during Vision 2020's renovation was just beyond our financial reach. We now are at the point where it must be done. An important first step, now nearing completion, is having a mechanical engineer assess our current system, make recommendations for a new system and develop specifications that will enable us to get firm bids for the project. Ideally, we will be able to get the work done this spring so we will be ready for summer. Ed Corr is assisting us with this.

2. Surveying the condition of the exterior of the building: This is in progress now through a contract with Aeon Preservation Services. They are doing a complete survey of the condition of the exterior of the church, from top to bottom and all the way around, including the invisible south side that too often is out of sight and out of mind. This work will identify and prioritize repairs that need to be made and ongoing regular maintenance required. We already know there is sandstone needing repair or replacement, work on the arch over the sidewalk, and pointing of bricks in selected spots. The outcome of this will be to give us a detailed prioritized plan with estimates of the cost of the work. We anticipate a final report by or shortly after this annual meeting. Pete Eveleth and Don Gangloff are leading this for the Fabric Committee.

3. Assessment of the sound system in the Nave: We have begun the process of identifying a sound engineer who will do a complete assessment and make specific recommendations for change. We are working closely with Jeff Kempeskie and with Jerry Dale (representing the Players.) Charlie Rupp is leading this for the Fabric Committee.

4. Completing the repair of the chapel ceiling The deterioration of some of the plaster ceiling was caused by past water damage. This is well underway, plasterwork completed with funding from the Historic Preservation account dedicated to the preservation of the nave. Originally created by a bequest, this been renewed periodically by other bequests but this work will pretty much empty that account. Painting will follow as soon as we find the funding (about \$6,500) to allow us to do that. We are looking now at temporary cosmetic fixes. Doris Burton is leading this effort for us.

In addition to the above, the JW is also responsible for two columbaria:

The columbaria exists in two separate locations: the nave chancel and in the Chapel of the Nazarene. The chancel columbarium consists of 75 niches, constructed in the 1970s and, at the present time, is fully subscribed. The chapel columbarium consists of 196 niches and has 105 subscriptions; 91 niches are available. Funds derived from the sale of niches are used for the operation of the church.

The chapel columbarium is an integral part of the Chapel, originally consecrated in 1931 and, after reconstruction and refurbishment (2004-2009), was re-consecrated in 2010 (for a complete history, see Annual Report, 2016)

The columbaria are operated under a standard agreement approved by the Vestry and updated in October 2014.

Fourteen niches in the Chapel columbarium were purchased during the past two years. Purchase rights are reserved for St. Mark's parishioners and their close relatives. Niches are available for \$1500.

TREASURER'S REPORT *Martha Huizenga*

We are pleased to report that 2017 was a very good year financially for St. Mark's, giving us the opportunity to create a solid base for future growth.

In 2017, we had an unexpected excess of revenue over expenses of \$184,000. This was the result of:

- More extensive use of the building and higher space use fees than budgeted
- Justi's departure in May vs. working the full year as had been budgeted
- Remaining Vision 2020 pledges came in at a higher than expected level
- Special offerings and plate income were significantly higher than in previous years
- Extended Vision2020 donations made in advance of the start of the new capital campaign

We are investing the surplus of \$184,000 in these ways:

- \$100,000 to the Parish Reserve toward a goal of 3 months operating expenses on hand
- \$20,000 to the Building Replacement Reserve
- \$10,000 to a new Sabbatical Reserve
- \$54,000 remains unallocated in our equity account

We also received an extra \$175,000 in advance payments on 2018 pledges. We believe this is because of the new tax law. Mindful that these are contributions that we will not receive in 2018, we have included those funds in the 2018 budget as an internal transfer,

The 2018 budget includes:

Budget Report			
<i>Income</i>	<i>2017 Budgeted</i>	<i>2017 Actual</i>	<i>2018 Budgeted</i>
Pledges	\$802,847	\$1,030,637	\$675,820
Other Income	\$90,000	\$179,822	\$176,300
Internal Transfers	\$10,190		\$181,752
Parish Organizations	\$9,200	\$8,413	\$9,200
Vision2020	\$10,000	\$45,116	
Total	\$922,237	\$1,263,988	\$1,043,072

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>2017 Budgeted</i>	<i>2017 Actual</i>	<i>2018 Budgeted</i>
Payroll & Related	\$532,104	\$473,423	\$520,014
Parochial Ministry	\$27,800	\$35,231	\$75,545
Diocesan Pledge	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$55,000
Outreach/VT Semi-nary	\$14,900	\$17,927	\$36,852
Administration	\$55,010	\$52,381	\$53,675
Property	\$271,910	\$282,025	\$291,260
Total	\$945,724	\$904,987	\$1,032,346
Surplus/(Deficit)	(-\$23,487)	\$359,001	\$10,726

High School (grades 9-12)

Focus: What are we called to do?

Theme year one: Self and Others

Lore: Identity in relationships: Mark, Genesis

Theme year two: Belief and Unbelief

Lore: Religion in Our Lives: Matthew, Amos

Theme year three: Justice and Inequality

Lore: Social activism: Luke, Job, Abraham, Isaac

Theme year four: Endings and Beginnings

Lore: Life transitions: Psalms

These guidelines are intended to be broad, and implemented or adjusted by the teachers in correspondence with the make up and spiritual journey of each class.

OUTREACH *Elizabeth Okeke-Von Batten (Co-Chair), Ruth Ann Hess, (Outgoing Co-Chair), and Courtney Lord (Incoming Co-Chair)*

Executive Board: Jane Rutherford, Treasurer, Dan Ramish, Secretary

Members: Sally Garr-Brodhead, Michael Knipe, Jack Richards, Jim Brooks (Vestry Liaison)

Clergy/Staff: The Rev. Michele Morgan, The Rev. Cindy Dopp (deacon), and Caroline McReynolds-Adams, DYFM

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: The Outreach Board as a successful catalyst for social justice.

Approach: The Outreach Board acts as a catalyst for social justice in our commitment communities. We actively partner with nonprofit organizations that we determine highly effective in their service delivery. We commit our time, talent, and treasure to leverage our partners' efforts of supporting individuals and families to develop their strengths and move toward self-sufficiency and self-determination. By doing so, we build relationships throughout the community and increase our knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing our neighbors in need.

Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month except August at 7 pm. . Members address on-going issues regarding various programs and program status, evaluate funding requests, and submit requests for new program and event support.

Funded Programs from the Annual Budget

(funding amount in parenthesis)

Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) (\$9000) We are a founding member of CHGM (established in 1967). CHGM helps neighbors, especially families, who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, with achieving housing stability and maximum self-sufficiency. CHGM operates several neighborhood-serving programs such as Shirley's Place, a day hospitality center where homeless families and underserved neighbors can go to make healthy meals for their children, take showers, do laundry, and talk with counselors. To support CHGM's family programming, our CHGM Families Support Team had more than 12 volunteers give of their time to provide lunches for a weekly parenting class and host two family nights: August Family Night providing 27+ backpacks filled with school supplies; and December Family Night providing 31 children with gift books purchased by our teenagers. Additionally, parishioners participated in CHGM's Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) which checks-in with chronically and temporary homeless neighbors living on the Hill throughout the year (especially on hypothermia and hyperthermia-alert nights) and provided food and grocery gift cards for 53 CHGM's Thanksgiving Baskets. (Note: the former Shelter Ministry program has been folded into the CHGM Families Support Team program).

The Trinidad Conservation Project (TCP) (\$1250) is an outgrowth of St. Mark's longtime association with Honduras. TCP serves several communities in Honduras by developing their strengths so that they may move toward self-sufficiency and self-determination. This is accomplished through financial support, technical expertise, and by

stories, concerns, voices, etc., and an interest in looking for any connections between our own experience and the Christian story. We also embrace the recognition that life's questions rarely offer black and white answers but, rather, consist of opposing tensions, each with their own promises and costs. We are open to the idea that how we "do community" at St. Mark's provides a path to bring the work of the various Pillars together, to focus on what we share and what connects us rather than viewing the Pillars in competition.

Our embrace of diversity is illustrated this year in the broad range of adult offerings. The academic year began with a functional class, "The Tensions of Everyday Life" a three-week class with a weekend retreat, which addressed the daily tensions in our relationships with our spouses, parents, children, colleagues that can't be resolved through analytical constructs or cost/benefit analyses. These everyday tensions often point to deeper issues which, left unexamined, can test our convictions, values, and faith. A dozen parishioners participated.

Continuing classes include 'Marching Through the Bible' focusing on Amos, one of St. Mark's theologian Verna Dozier's favorite books, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of her birth and began the study of Esther at the beginning of February. Tuesday Bible Study has been reading Why Priests? By Gary Wills, focusing on the Biblical basis for Christian priesthood and its implications for the meaning of the Eucharist. Wednesday Morning Bible Study has been reading Verna Dozier's book, The Dream of God. "God has a dream, Verna Dozier believes, and we are the realization of that dream. The dream of God is that all creation will live together in peace and harmony."

Just after the Christmas holiday, Christian Education leaders and participants took a break to consider the question, "What does it mean to be brothers and sisters?" 2017 has placed a focus on power differentials in our society, cutting across gender, race, ethnicity and economic conditions. To understand what we are called to be in this context, we explored our own experience of family, how we define brotherhood and sisterhood, the gender roles we grew up with and the gender roles we live with now. We then asked ourselves how we would define an ideal family, emphasizing for example, a balance between support and independence, personal accomplishment and communal identity, founded on mutual respect. We then considered how we fall short of these goals, and ended by reflecting on what our responsibilities are to each other, especially in a faith community, and how best to approach these ideals. Once again, we held the event at the church with twenty-nine parishioners participating.

In the youth program, we have been striving to create, with the inspiration and support of our excellent Youth Director Caroline McReynolds-Adams, a Sunday school experience which follows a unified arc, providing both broad coverage of basic Christian lore and a unified message of community, trust, support, and a desire for spiritual growth.

This arc traces the following path and themes:

Catechesis I (pre-K-K)

Theme: I am known and I am loved...

Focus: Love: Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Catechesis II (grades 1-3)

Theme:...so how will I act in the world?

Focus: Right and Wrong: Parable of the True Vine

Catechesis III (grades 4-5)

Theme:...as part of God's community

Focus: Responsibility: Maxims, 10 Commandments

Middle School (grades 6-8)

Focus: Finding an Even Keel

Theme year one: A Search For Identity

Lore: Joseph and David

Theme year two: Establishing Community: I Have a Choice

Lore: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Old vs New Testament

Theme year three: Looking Outward - I can shape my world

Lore: Exodus

MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY	
MARCH 2017-JANUARY 2018	
Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action is listed by month-year (03-17=March 2017)	
VA 03-17	Elected Officers of the Vestry to serve until the 2018 APM: Register-Mary Anderson Cooper; Counsel-Michael Knipe; Manciple-Michael Knipe; Treasurer, Martha Huizenga-Assistant Treasurer-John Edwards.
VA 04-17	Approved ordination of Marcella Gillis to the Priesthood.
VA 06-17	Approved new gift acceptance policy.
VA 06-17	Approved proposal to make available for dedication those nave chairs not already dedicated.
VA 06-17	Approved proposal to allow District Montessori School to operate a small day school in the undercroft.
VA 07-17	Approved annual audit report.
RA 07-17	James Rostron hired as Parish Administrator.
VA 09-17	Approved action to provide bonuses to staff.
VA 09-17	Approved use of a parishioner's gift to make an extra payment of \$10,000 to reduce the parish mortgage.
VA 09-17	Approved a motion to add a prayer to the Vestry Manual.
VA 10-17	Approved initial plan for a Capital Campaign.
VA 10-17	Approved a fundraiser for Team Henry and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Association.
RA 10-17	Engaged The Rev. Cynthia Dopp for 12 hours per week as Deacon working in the area of end of life ministry.
RA 10-17	Engaged The Rev. Kate Heichler for 15 hours a week as Interim Associate Rector.
VA 12-17	Authorized the Junior Warden to request up to \$50,000 from the Endowment Fund to pay for assessment of the building's exterior condition and recommendation regarding nave and Turner Wing HVAC replacement.



ENDOWMENT BOARD

In 2002 the Vestry approved a charter creating an endowment 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. A five-member board approved by the Vestry manages the endowment.

Contributions and bequests are presently invested in the Vanguard STAR Fund (VGSTX), which follows a balanced investment approach by placing 60% -70% of its assets in common stocks and 30-40% in bonds. 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 2017 Disbursements and Activities

BUILDING PRESERVATION FUND: Set up in 1998 from sale of the Rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. In 2017 \$4372 was disbursed from this fund for exterior sign projects.

HOITSMA FUND: Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this fund provides for long-term building improvements that are not covered by the operating budget. In 2017 there were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund.

GENERAL FUND: This fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the Church. The projects would not otherwise be funded by the budget. In 2017 \$2169 was disbursed from this fund for interior sign projects.

VERNA DOZIER FUND: Initially set up in 2000 from funds donated, but not needed, for the Dozier window in the nave clerestory, this fund provides scholarships for college-bound seniors at Dunbar High School. Among criteria for selection is a student essay describing a person who made a deep impression on him/her as he/she was growing up. The Dunbar Alumni Federation (DAF) selects the recipient. In 2017 a \$2500 scholarship was awarded from the fund.

CRAIGHILL DANCE FUND: Set up in 1984 by a gift from the Craighill family to support the St. Mark's Dance Studio, this fund also includes the Beryl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for promising dancers. In 2017 there were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund.

ARTS FUND: This fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2017.

HOLTKAMP ORGAN FUND: Set up in 1998, this fund provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. The Music Director requests disbursements. There were no donations to, or disbursements from, this fund in 2017.

OTHER SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS: Education, Outreach, and Worship Funds are authorized in the 2002 Charter. They have not received any funds to date.

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

Kathryn Powers (Co-Chair) Cecilia Monahan (Co-Chair)

Michael Summey (Treasurer)

Dave Wellman (Architect) Kim Bayliss

Play Area An area of the nave consisting of a rug with toys, books, paper and crayons, continues to be a success for children.

Laying on of Hands is offered on the first and third Sundays. A group of volunteers, led by Jan Lipscomb, continues this ministry with Jessie Babcock's departure.

The following groups support Worship:

Altar Guild: *Gretchen Willson and Joan Schindel, Co-Chairs*

Twenty parishioners serve on the Guild. In addition to a rotating schedule for preparing the altar for the Sunday and Thursday services, Guild members maintain the linens and supplies, order candles and palms, support funerals and weddings. The 9am and 11:15am teams meet the Saturday before Palm Sunday and in early December to polish the silver and brass before Easter and Christmas. In June, the Guild holds its annual dinner and makes plans for the coming year. Serving on the Altar Guild is a way to provide much-needed behind-the-scenes service.

Vergers: *David Deutsch, Head Verger*

Our main goal is to assist our rector in the execution of all aspects of worship especially in the implementation of any changes that would naturally occur with the installation of a new rector. To carry out this goal, we have two sets of vergers: one for the morning services and another for the 5pm service. Those verging Sunday mornings are David Deutsch, Josie Jordan, Michael Knipe, Jan Lipscomb, and Loretta Veney. Margaret Wood, after eleven years verging in the mornings, retired. We thank her for her dedicated ministry overseeing the Sunday morning worship. 5pm vergers are Katherine Anderson, Michael Bloomfield, Jennifer Cate, Isabelle Cross, Martha Huizenga, and Michele Rivard. They play an unsung role in the success of the 5pm service.

Historical Note: The position of Verger was created in 1996 following the Chancel Choir tour of England. The vergers at Lichfield Cathedral ran a far smoother service than did our 'masters of ceremonies'. Upon their return, choir member Art Engler created the position and established the first training program for our vergers.

Greeters / Ushers: *Mary Ellison, Coordinator*

Greeting people, both members of the parish and newcomers, at the doors on Sunday is essential to our mission of hospitality and to the continued growth of the congregation. Greeters welcome people to the church, hand out bulletins and hymnals, and help newcomers find a seat. In addition, Greeters pass the collection plates and count attendance at every service. We are exploring new software to make scheduling the greeters more efficient. *Historical Note: Long-time parishioners may still refer to these volunteers as 'beadles', a term we used for many years and a title adopted from "a minor parish officer dealing with petty offenders" in the Anglican Church.*

Readers Guild: *Jim Steed, Coordinator*

Throughout the year a number of parishioners contributed to worship by volunteering to read the lessons on Sundays. These are generally those appointed for the day by the lectionary but sometimes the texts are appropriate to the occasion such as the "Lessons and Carols on July 4". Readers for the family service on the 2nd Sunday of each month are drawn from the parish's younger members. Readers at 5pm volunteer at the beginning of the service.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Jane Sherman, Don Ellison, Co-Directors*

Christian Education is divided into two areas: adults and youth. The adult program seeks to offer pathways to investigate, reflect on, and deepen our spiritual lives and to aid in the search for meaning. There are many types of offerings, and we are open to and encourage any suggestions emerging from the particular interests or experiences of our parishioners. For example, this year our Director of Music, Jeff Kempksie, offered a class called 'Congregational Singing', designed to allow participants without formal music education to more fully participate in and enjoy congregational singing by teaching them how to read music through the use of solfège (teaching sight-singing by assigning syllables to each note of the scale.)

It is our belief that what underlies our communal life and makes St. Mark's unique are the tenets that have their origins in the work of Charles Penniman, first espoused by Rev. Bill Baxter (9th Rector, 1954-66) These tenets include honesty, openness, a willingness to engage with others by sharing, to the extent we are comfortable, our

St. Mark's Endowment Funds

Treasurer's Report as of January 1, 2018

2018 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

1/16/18

	Total	General	Arts	Building Preservation	Restoration Capital Improvement	Music Organ Maintenance	Diocesan Education	Craft Hill Dance
Current Fund Value 12/31/2017	946,871	134,553	66,790	267,740	191,630	41,118	61,177	183,863
Beginning Fund Value end of 2016 12/31/2016	808,857	115,771	56,442	230,208	161,942	34,748	54,078	156,378
YTD Change in Account Balance since December 31, 2016	138,014	18,782	10,348	37,442	29,688	6,370	7,099	28,485
New donations/loan repayments during 2016								
Disbursements during 2016								
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of January 1, 2017								
(Change of assets) '17 assets								
2018 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2018	822,355	121,364	57,130	231,980	161,533	35,176	54,039	161,096
(As of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance)								
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009	41,118	6,069	2,857	11,599	8,077	1,759	2,702	8,055
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010	3,113		3,113			968		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2011	3,022		2,054			968		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2012	2,948		1,985			963		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2013	3,134		2,104			1,030		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2014	3,839		2,394			1,445		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2015	3,933		2,685			1,248		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2016	32,839	448	2,797	21,654	7,227	1,422	1,949	4,569
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2017	42,904	6,791	2,808	20,104	7,227	1,522	2,419	7,603
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2017	41,537	6,214	2,779	13,010	7,576	1,645	2,557	7,762
Subtotal	183,887	19,522	25,550	66,367	22,880	11,752	9,627	27,889
YTD Spend	183,887	19,522	25,550	66,367	22,880	11,752	9,627	27,889
TOTAL 2018 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2018	183,887	19,522	25,550	66,367	22,880	11,752	9,627	27,889

NOTES:
CRAFT HILL DANCE FUND
The original request was given with a request that \$20,000 be spent on an archiving of the dance studio's historical information.

anchor these relationships. The sense of the weekend was caught up by the exuberant arrival of the parish children at the concluding Eucharist.

October: We celebrated the centennial of the birth of Verna Dozier, theologian, activist, and longtime member on October 8. The service included prayers from Verna's book The Dream of God with The Reverend Canon Stephanie Spellars preaching the sermon. The service honored Verna and was also an effective way to introduce her and her role in the parish to new members who had not known her.

The committee spent some time working out a policy for the scheduling of Mission Moments. We recognized their value but found it hard to balance them against the other demands of the services in which they occur. We agreed to try to restrict such MM's to one per service beyond the normal liturgical requirements of the day and to avoid scheduling them when there are other additions such as canvass moments or baptisms.

We also began to plan for the Advent season. The work done by the volunteer 'greeners' and other planners in 2016 met with a favorable reception by the congregation and we extended it again for 2017's Advent season as well.

November:

All Saints Day: During communion, a reading of the Necrology brought into the circle around the altar the memory of people from our community and beyond who have gone before us.

Canvass season: The services included brief Canvass Moments, in which parishioners offered their thoughts on the important role St. Mark's plays in their lives and the ways that role informs their giving.

Building on an a discussion in October, we completed plans to contribute a part of the funds raised by the special offerings to underwrite the Christmas season's special music and nave decorations to Bright Beginnings, an organization that helps homeless children. The choice of this charity was particularly apt given the theme for the season, "Holy Family/Holy Families."

Thanksgiving: A joint service was held at Christ Church+G Street with a meal following.

Advent

The Committee welcomed The Rev. Cindy Dopp, a vocational deacon assigned to St. Mark's by the Bishop, to join in its deliberations.

The festivities leading up to Christmas can be particularly stressful for those who have lost a loved one or who experience other kinds of grief. We continued the Reflective Service of Loss and Remembrance that proved meaningful for many last year. For the fifth year, St. Mark's hosted the Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence. As previously, families of victims of gun violence attend this service. Some attendees said they regard St. Mark's as their home and refuge in this area.

Advent IV was also Christmas Eve so the time frame for church decoration was tight. Drawing on the theme for Advent and Christmas, individuals and organizations created small displays progressively installed throughout Advent, highlighting this theme. These displays remained as an essential element of the Christmas decorations.

Epiphany was marked by a sermon series entitled *How to Be A Change Agent in Polarized Times*.

5:00 PM Service

The involvement of families in the 5:00 PM service continues to grow, and the service has expanded opportunities for children to participate. The procession includes a child carrying the Children's Cross.

Worship-related Activities

Children's Chapel Parents and children up to 6 years join Caroline McReynolds-Adams inn the Arts Studio. The group starts with the regular service in the Nave related to that Sunday's Gospel. All re-join the service before the Eucharist. It is a meaningful and fun gathering each Sunday (not held on the 2nd Sunday/Family Service).



REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP *Jim Steed and Mary De Nys, Co-Directors*

Worship grounds all missions of our community as it does any church, synagogue, mosque, or temple. These are, after all, “places of worship.” In 2017, we continued St. Mark’s longtime practice of creative approaches to liturgy while embracing the larger traditions of the Book of Common Prayer that has been the mainstay of the Episcopal Church. This year we returned the Confession to the services and again made the Creed, either in traditional form or in new modes of affirmation, a central part of our worship.

In June 2017, Linda Chandlee completed a year as Co-Director of Worship having served with Mary De Nys. In September, Jim Steed joined Mary as Co-Director.

The Worship Committee (formerly Liturgy Planning Team) is a group of lay, clergy, and staff members who work hard to craft worship that is meaningful, creative, and dynamic. At our annual retreat in July we reviewed the history of worship planning at St. Mark’s since the days of Jim Adams and Michele presented her vision for carrying that tradition forward in ways that suit our current sensibilities and challenges. Through our monthly meetings, we concentrate on enhancing the flow of liturgy and on better integrating children and youth. We continue working to make these monthly meetings a meaningful experience for both laity and clergy.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday: The reading of the Passion was done in the traditional manner with parts read by different parishioners. It was followed by a liturgical dance choreographed by Rosie Brooks to “O Sacred Head Sore Wounded,” with the final verse sung by the congregation.

We continued last year’s introduction of specific services for most days. *Monday* was Liturgy of Confession and the Laying on of Hands. *Tenebrae* remained on *Wednesday*, as last year. *Maundy Thursday* continued our tradition of the agape meal with Washing of Feet moved into the Eucharist between Liturgies of the Word and the Table. Good Friday services, unlike previous years, did not include distribution of the Eucharist from the reserved sacrament to as a way to recognize the absence of Jesus after his death. The day included solemn veneration of the cross that many found extremely moving. Stations of the Cross for Social Justice at the Capitol followed the noon service carrying on our tradition of “worship in the world.” New this year was a service in the evening. In the afternoon of *Holy Saturday* we repeated last year’s “Walking After Jesus” simulating a journey through Holy Week, placing participants a few steps behind Jesus at every turn. Although the observance was designed as a creative way for families with children to engage in the story of this liturgical season, many other parishioners joined in. Everyone who participated was enthusiastic about the experience. Meanwhile, a group led capably and creatively by Lisa Ramish decorated the nave for Easter. As at Christmas, this was done economically and after Easter, the flowering plants were donated to the children’s garden at the National Arboretum.

Great 50 Days: April 30 was a big day! Bishop Marianne visited and included Baptisms in her activities. In the afternoon, she installed The Rev. Michele Morgan as 12th rector.

Pentecost and Banner Sunday coincided this year. The 9:00 service included our traditional procession of banners. Prayers were written by the youth, and the sermon preached by high school seniors.

We participated in the parish-wide retreat at Claggett Conference Center. We explored what it means to live together in a large parish in which we care for one another throughout life’s stages, from the newly baptized to those retired from the world of work. The rituals and symbols of worship at the center of our community life

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 =856 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)
2104	331	483	103	135	269	+21/-2 =939	759 (582A/177Y)
2015	297	430	n/a	n/a	262	+31/-362 =608 ⁷	608 (377A/231Y)
2016	309	443	153	108	274	+13/-3 =618	618 (375A/243Y)
2017	326	463	103	106	279	+25/-7=635	635 (375A/260Y)

¹Age 18/younger
²Recorded in the official Parish Register via Baptism, Confirmation, or Letter of Transfer.
³All baptized members who contribute time, talent, and money to support the life and mission of our community.
⁴Included as a baseline
⁵Plus numbers reflect Baptisms, confirmations, reception (*from* another congregation); minus numbers reflect deaths or transfer *to* another congregation
⁶Adults/Youth
⁷The drop in numbers is the result of a ‘clean-up’ of the parish records done periodically by clergy.

LITURGICAL SERVICES					
YEAR	SUNDAY	WEEK-	PRIVATE	MARRIAGES	BURIALS
2009	104	21	16	4	2
2010	144 ¹³	42	8	5	4
2011	141	58	9	9	5
2012	145	54	8	9	1
2013	133	54	0	10	8
2014	140	60	2	9	8
2015	135	46	3	0	8
2016	156	48	3	4	8
2017	153	58	0	3	7

¹³Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE OF REGISTERED VOTERS		
Meeting	Registered Voters	Vestry Register
March 10, 2012	186	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 13, 2013	166	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 30, 2014	155	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 15, 2015	215	Blair Ford
March 13, 2016	179	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 26, 2017	190	Mary Anderson Cooper

ELDERS *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman, Conveners*

The Elders include all former Wardens and Directors of Christian Education. They meet upon the request of the Wardens, Co-Directors, clergy or other parish leaders. An annual dinner for Elders and their spouses is held in the spring.

There are currently 59 Elders living in the area and active. Nationwide, 70 Elders remain in contact.

At the June 11, 2017 Elders' Dinner 43 attended. Four leaders were ceremoniously inducted into the august ranks: Senior Warden Peter Sherer (former Co-D, so re-upped), Junior Warden Doris Burton and Co-Directors of Christian Education Lucy Brown and Joe Calizo.



"The village wants to add some younger elders."



A recently uncovered photo in our Archives of The Pro-Cathedral Church of St. Mark (1896-1905) Photo by C.R. Pancoast, The Church Standard (ca.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY

RACE AND RECONCILIATION *inactive*

MEMBERSHIP *Peter Sherer, Chair*

The Committee has met monthly to determine the best ways to attract newcomers and to make interested new people feel like they belong here. We have identified some key steps in the process for someone to deepen their relationship to the church including taking the newcomers class, taking the Belongings' class, accepting a volunteer assignment and making a pledge among other indications of interest in membership. When a visitor fills out the form on the back of the bulletin indicating their interest in learning more, systems are now in place to have at least two people contact them with offers of guidance on next steps. A group of newcomer greeters make a personal contact with newcomers each Sunday to determine their interests.

A new membership tracking software, *Realm*, is in place. This replaces the old *Shepherd's Staff*, no longer serving the needs of a 21st C parish. *Realm* will be the basis for a new program to create geographically based small groups of parishioners to create a sense of more intimate community within the larger church membership.

Last year we attracted 41 new members and, since October 2017, we have already attracted 34 new members which is as many as it took us until May last year.

CANVASS/STEWARDSHIP

For 2018, we took a fresh approach under the vision of our Rector, The Rev. Michele Morgan. We tailored our appeal to different generations with messages that would resonate with each group. Michele came up with the compellingly active theme, "Carry it Forward," which spoke to the movement and energy we are all experiencing. We invited people to tell their stories, not just via service announcements, but in engaging messages that spoke of their own engagement with and commitment to St. Mark's. These messages are now posted in Baxter Hall – come take a look!

Results As of February 1, 2018, here are the Canvass results compared to 2017:

Year	Pledge Units	Amount Pledged	New Pledgers	Out of Town Pledgers
2017	284	\$812,230	21	8
2018	288	\$861,829	36	6

It is significant – and a very hopeful sign – that the number of new pledgers has significantly increased. It is also significant that we are well ahead of the pace we set last year of reaching our ultimate goal of \$880,000 and 50 new pledges. We are at 98% of this year's goal so we're confident that the budget is based on a solid assumption about income this year. Last year, after the Annual Report was published in March, we added 13 new pledges and about \$20,000; a similar result this year will bring us very close to our goal.

Similar to last year, there are 9 pledge units in 2017 who have either died or indicated they have left the church and will no longer be pledging. Approximately 50 pledgers who pledged for 2017 had not yet made a pledge for 2018 as of February 1, nor indicated that they are withdrawing their membership. This is not atypical for a canvass – the annual "clean up" of late pledgers usually happens in February.

Reflections and Lessons Learned

Our recent focus on increasing our membership base is clearly paying off and we can all take great satisfaction in the growth we're seeing in that area. Since 2016, we have added 93 new members and very few parishes in this diocese can claim such progress. Going forward, we need to keep our focus on our areas of strength: vibrant liturgies, excellent preaching and pastoral care, gracious hospitality, generous outreach, challenging choir music, nurturing children's programs, and friendly encouragement of membership.

Thank you to Jen Dalzell and Alix Pereira for their invaluable assistance in running the Canvass "back office." We also thank the Vestry for their support in pledging early and helping with the close-out calls and emails. In particular, we want to thank Nora Howell for her tireless work in helping to execute this year's successful canvass.

Without all of you, we could not have had a successful Canvass.

Finally, and most important, we are enormously grateful for the generous financial support provided by nearly 300 parishioners, especially those who are pledging for the first time. You keep us going and all of us in leadership positions-clergy, staff, Wardens, Vestry, officers, and committee chairs – feel you carrying us as we move forward!

STEWARDSHIP

Following the action taken by the '16-'17 Vestry, the Stewardship Committee was formed and Rob Hall named as chair. Members include the wardens, treasurer, Membership Committee chair representatives of the Endowment Board, and Vestry. The committee held its initial meeting in September 2017 and, thereafter, engaged with the Legacy Lions effort led by Junior Warden Kenn Allen and parishioners Betty Foster, Tucker Harris, and Kathryn Powers. A Legacy Lions recognition and thank you event for those members who have included St. Mark's in their wills was held in early November.

Introduced to the parish at the Annual Meeting, the Stewardship Committee also has engaged in an effort to secure additional gifts from parishioners through a strategic capital campaign that will retire a large portion of our remaining debt and fund other urgent priorities. Rob Hall and Jackie Boddie have been tapped to lead the Extended Vision campaign that will be formally introduced at the Annual Meeting.

LEGACY LIONS

In 2017, St. Mark's launched the Legacy Lions as our planned giving program to recognize those parishioners who have made the commitment to include St. Mark's in their estates. In November, we recognized our inaugural class of Legacy Lions. We are deeply grateful for their commitment. They are:

Scilla Adams	Bill & Josie Jordan
Kenn Allen & Maureen Shea	Jeff Kincheloe
Betsy Athey & Frank Lloyd	Keith Krueger
Bart Barnes	Pat Latin
Eileen Blumenthal	Elizabeth Long
Janice Brown	Beryl Maloney-Lillaston
Jack & Doris Muller-Burton	Randall David Marks
Mary Anderson Cooper	Bertha Martin
David & Stephanie Deutsch	Jim & Marilyn Meek
Bob & Linda Ewald	Matt & Rita Ossolinski
Wes & Betty Foster	David Perry
Raiford Gaffney	Kathryn Powers
Brock & Penny Hansen	Marilu Sherer
Rosemary Harold & Michael Knipe	Linda Staheli & David Abramowitz
Jack & Tucker Harris	James A. Steed
Nadine Hathaway	Joe Tarantola
Peter Hawley	Arnold & Lil Taylor
JoEllen Hayden & George Meng	Sherrill Taylor
Anne & Robert Headley	Susan Thompson
Janice Hoffman	Janet Vail
Nora Howell	Mary Welker
Linda Huntington	Nat White
Gale & Wayne Johnson	David & Gretchen Willson

DIOCESAN REPORT *Jim Steed, Michael Knipe, Cecilia Monahan, Delegates; Report by Maureen Shea*

123rd Annual Convention: Hard as it is to believe, this is Bishop Marian Edgar Budde's seventh year as our bishop, entitling her to a three month sabbatical which will begin in March. In her convention address, "Loaves and Fish and the Next Courageous Step", she "spoke of wondrous "loaves and fishes" stories from across the diocese, examples of how Jesus is blessing and multiplying the courageous offerings of our people." She then "invited all to consider--as individuals, faith communities, and the Diocese of Washington--what the next courageous step God is calling us to take to go deeper in relationship to Christ might be."

In order to help us with those steps, attendees were given a resource paper listing upcoming opportunities in each of the key priorities of the diocese: growing Christian community, growing in faith in every dimension of our lives, and striving for justice.

https://www.edow.org/files/2115/1707/3628/Taking_the_Next_Couragous_Step___EDOW_2018.pdf

In her address, Bishop Budde recognized St. Mark's both for its annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence and its hospitality to over 3,000 people at the January 2017 Presidential Inauguration and Women's March.

The Convention approved the budget of \$4,214,350 for 2018. Treasurer Paul Barkett noted that more and more parishes are moving toward tithing or increasing their annual giving to the Diocese by 1% annually until they are at the tithing level. St. Mark's is among the latter. This increased congregational giving allows the diocese to rely less on the Soper Fund and to expand grants to congregations through the Congregational Growth Grants.

Participants approved three resolutions, each with perfecting amendments:

Resolution #1 – On Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese: Offering Sacred Welcome to Immigrants -

https://www.edow.org/files/9315/1734/2177/Passed_Resolution_1.pdf

Resolution #2 – On Inclusion of Transgender People -

https://www.edow.org/files/3715/1734/2202/Passed_Resolution_2.pdf

Resolution #3 – On the Gendered Language for God.

https://www.edow.org/files/7915/1734/2229/Passed_Resolution_3.pdf

The Good Book Club: Bishop Budde and our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, are inviting us to join a Lenten and Easter study of the Gospel of Luke and Book of Acts.

<http://www.goodbookclub.org/>

St. Mark's in the Diocese: Junior Warden Kenn Allen serves on the diocesan Finance Committee, Michele and Kenn serve on the Strategic Financial Resources Commission which he co-chairs, and Maureen Shea is the South DC Regional representative to Diocesan Council. Our former seminarian, The Rev. Kristen Hawley, was installed as Rector of St. David's on February 3rd and on January 28 former St. Mark's Assistant Rector, The Rev. Dr. Stephanie Nagley retired after 14 years at St. Luke's+Bethesda.

Two Groups operate in support of the Staff and Vestry:

ADVISORY COMMITTEES *Betsy Athey, Convener*

Advisory Committees have assisted our clergy, wardens, seminarians and staff since 1975. They are composed of a lay convener and usually 7-9 parishioners representing a microcosm of our community who are connected to parish life, and serve generally a 2-year term. These committees support our leaders by offering themselves as a "sounding board," focusing on issues central to the work and life of the principal and providing feedback as requested. Regular monthly attendance, confidentiality, and the courage to "speak one's truth" are expected. There are currently five Advisory Committees.

Current chairs:

Rector's Advisory: Cecilia Monahan

Director of Youth & Family Ministry Advisory: Julie Murphy

Senior Warden's Advisory: Mike Townsend

Junior Warden's Advisory: Fabric Committee

Seminarian's Advisory: Bill Dickinson