

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ANNUAL PARISH REPORT**



**ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31, 2021**

## Rector's 2020 Reflection

### The Adventure of Church @ St. Mark's



First, I want to express my continued gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Rector of St. Mark's. I am blessed to work with an amazing staff whose passion, creativity, dedication and joy make so much of what we do possible each week. I'm equally grateful for the many volunteers and ministry leaders that have continued to do ministry even in the changed circumstances: leading small groups, creating music, leading committees, organizing deliveries, and helping out around the facility as needed. I'm also deeply thankful for the kindness and loving care you continue to show toward my family. This past week on January 26, 2021, I celebrated my 20th Anniversary of Ordination to Sacred Order of Priesthood. Being a priest where I feel supported and encouraged in my vocation is a blessing beyond words. I still love coming to work at St. Mark's and I'm looking forward to the dynamic year of 2021 ahead.

There is little doubt that none of us could have imagined the amount of change our worship life and spiritual community has undergone in the COVID-dominated year 2020. It has certainly been a lot of things: difficult, challenging, hard, frustrating, isolating, disappointing and scary. But at the same time, it has also been a year of: growth, creativity, trying new things, community building, new connections, adaptability, fun, support and reaching out.

I am so grateful for the community of St. Mark's that has demonstrated that while we may not be able to meet in-person in order to keep our community safe and healthy, we can still gather as a community for worship, communion, conversation, classes, fellowship and fun. St. Mark's has never been closed, we have simply been worshiping in a new way. I have been so pleasantly surprised by how flexible and adaptive our community has been over the past 10 months. So many have made the choice to stay connected, learn to do church a new way, adapt to online worship and celebrate the many ways worshipers of all ages can participate and contribute. In some ways this year has been a time of expanding participation and leadership in worship with new people chanting psalms, reading lessons, serving as digital vergers, offering their musical and artistic gifts and working behind the scenes.

There have been many high points to this year and here are just a few of them in roughly chronological order:

1. Multiple house blessings in the season of Epiphany for the McGrew, Greces, Libbey, Vogel, and Ogilvie households, before the pandemic was a thing!
2. A fantastic Mardi Gras Celebration that we managed to get in just before lockdown.
3. An adaptive Holy Week with a hauntingly beautiful Easter Vigil and our first zoom liturgy.
4. Seeing the generosity of the St. Mark's community in developing a COVID-Relief fund to help people to pay bills and stay afloat during the financial strains of this time. Funds still remain available for those who are struggling financially during this crisis. To date we have helped numerous parishioners, sent additional funds to the Diocese of Navajoland, and to FaithWorks.
5. A 9th Summer of Conversation that went virtual and became a mainstay of coffee hour for several weeks, helping people to stay connected, meet one another and deepen the relational fabric of St. Mark's. More than 200 individual meetings happened as a result of this initiative.
6. A packed Mary Oliver poetry class led by Don DeNoon over the summer that attracted former members and friends from around the country.
7. Outdoor Eucharist in the Fish Garden and Cecil's Courtyard during seasonable weather.
8. The agonizing and difficult decision to open St Mark's Montessori School for the fall and a smooth semester with no COVID-19 shutdowns in 2020.
9. A moving All Saints Liturgy with a virtual Ofrenda and remembrance of our own Saints and loved ones.
10. The incredible workshop for the Cosmic Mosaic that almost happened (it had to be cancelled at the last minute) that is still yet to come. It's going to be beautiful piece of art in our very own St. Mark's Playground.
11. The Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Eve Deliveries that helped people stay connected to their faith community and brought joy into people's lives as well as consecrated elements for Christmas communion.

12. Our Giving, Growing, Grateful in Faith 2021 Celebration Sunday and the amazing show of support for the life and Ministry of St. Mark's. This is such a generous community dedicated to supporting itself financially and reaching out beyond itself.
13. Wow! The Amazing virtual St. Mark's Christmas Pageant that Mother Sylvia created with the incredible participation of the community in so many ways. Wow!
14. The three virtual Caroling parties that were so much fun and lifted my spirits and those of so many.
15. The simple blessing of worship every week with a community that I care so deeply for and that cares so deeply for each other and has learned to offer their gifts to the community, to honor and include children and youth and to make something beautiful for God in this place together without the need to be stifled by some expectation of perfection.

2020 was a remarkable year where we learned that community can take many forms. We were challenged to do things in ways that might never have happened if we were not asked to change and change quickly. I want to thank Mother Sylvia and Deacon David specifically for their incredible tenacity, creativity and technological adaptability that helped to guide us into church online in a way that has maintained our love of liturgy, our theology of inclusion of everyone's gifts, our joyfulness and creativity, while remaining true to our Episcopal ethos and form. Let it be said that we worked hard to keep the community of St. Mark's together and to ensure a continuity of worship and formation that was astounding.

As a community, I think that we've grown deeper and more committed throughout this COVID-time. When adversity arrived, we discovered that our community was remarkably resilient and adaptive and incredibly supportive even when what was happening was far from perfect and not what they had expected. I know that it was a hard year for many in our faith community and I'm so grateful for the way the community of St. Mark's rallied around each other in the mist of crisis and isolation to make something beautiful for God in this place and through the means we had available. The spirit of Christ is alive and well in this faith community. We did not cease to be the church we simply became the church in a new way.

2020 was also a year of difficult losses at St. Mark's that were very hard to honor in the ways we are accustomed to. We said goodbye to some beautiful saints of God that were part of our worshiping community: Mike Mayhew, John Caldwell, Beverly Rector, Sally Blackstad, Shirley Gravlin, Mary Ann Kindler, Vi Pauli, Crystal Wood, Nancy Rogers, Tad Pound, Marilyn Freyman. We held several virtual hybrid funerals and a Rosary for Remembrance that marked new ways of honoring our grief and celebrating the lives of those we loved with others around the country and the world.

How will 2020 be remembered at St. Mark's? I think it will be remembered as a year in which we learned how truly valuable community is and how tenacious we are about building it and deepening it despite adverse circumstances. I think we will remember it as a time of growing deeper and more sure of the central role faith in Christ plays in each of our lives. I know I will always remember it as a time of remarkable support and an outpouring of encouragement from an incredibly dedicated community of people. In 2020, I learned just how generous St. Mark's really is: generous with its financial support, generous with its participation, generous with its forgiveness for things not being perfect, generous with its loving care toward one another, and generous with its commitment to keep making something beautiful for God that offers the whole community a place to participate.

As we look toward a more hopeful 2021, I believe that we are poised to navigate the challenges of the year and to gently re-enter in-person worship as it becomes possible. I'm grateful for the new staff that have joined us, Jeremy Wirths as our new Director of Music and Tricia Morton as our new director of St. Mark's Montessori School. I look forward to the adventure of working with them to help both church and school thrive together and become more connected over time.

There is great work ahead of St. Mark's as a parish. I believe that we are indeed blessed to be a blessing in our neighborhood and in our city and to other Episcopal Churches as we collaborate and encourage one another in the work of God in our communities.

Thank you for being the warm and welcoming and vital and growing people of God that you are.

In Christ's Generous Love,  
Fr. Christopher †

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# Annual Meeting Agenda 2021

## Gathering Music

The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia

## Opening Prayer

Rev. David Martin

## Leadership

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order  | The Rev. Christopher McLaren  |
| 2. Appointment of the Secretary - Clerk of the Vestry           | Meredithe Sweeney, Sr. Warden |
| 3. Approval of FY 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2020 | Attachment 1, page 26         |
| 4. Senior Warden's Address                                      | Meredithe Sweeney, Sr. Warden |

## Elections

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 5. Election of New Vestry Members and Delegates | Meredithe Sweeney and Laurel Cabral |
| 6. Introduction of Lay Staff                    | The Rev. Christopher McLaren        |

## Thanksgivings

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 7. Thank You to Vestry   | The Rev. Christopher McLaren  |
| 8. Thank You to Outgoing Vestry Members  | Meredithe Sweeney, Sr. Warden |
| 9. Thank You – Kathie MacDonald Vargo – Retiring Organist / Choir Master             |                               |
| 10. Thank You – Ms. Denise Talamante – Director, St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS) |                               |
| 11. Thank You – St. Montessori School Board Members                                  | The Rev. Christopher McLaren  |

## Announcements

12. Welcome of Tricia Morton – new Director of SMMS
13. Welcome to Jeremy Wirths – new Director of Music

## Finance and Budget

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 14. Special Announcement             | The Rev. Christopher McLaren   |
| 15. Stewardship, Finance, and Budget | Miranda Eastham, Treasurer     |
| 16. St. Mark's Montessori Budget     | Ken Reese, Assistant Treasurer |

## Election Results

Meredithe Sweeney and Laurel Cabral

17. Second Ballot if necessary

## Coming Attractions

18. Mardi Gras / Ash Wednesday Delivery and Activities
19. Lenten Opportunities

Deacon David Martin

## Election Results 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot (if needed)

Meredithe Sweeney and Laurel Cabral

## Closing Remarks

St. Mark's Clergy

## Adjournment of Annual Meeting

Meredithe Sweeney, Sr. Warden

## Blessing

The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia

## Senior Warden's Report

As with most everything in 2020, our annual meeting is yet another event we have to modify to a virtual platform. Our annual report is going to look vastly different as well. Last year, I asked you to look through the pages of the annual report and think about where you can fit and participate in our various groups, committees, and offerings. What are you able to bring to St. Mark's to share with our community? Your time? Your talent? Your storytelling prowess? Your voice? Your spiritual knowledge and experience? Your leadership, creativity, the list goes on and on. And then, two months into 2020, the pandemic hit and our world was turned upside down in a matter of days, which seemed like years and also split seconds.



Within weeks, we were readily adapting to this new environment, critically problem-solving access, technology, and this new program called Zoom. We attended almost all church activities through our laptops and iPads and we projected church through our televisions. And we stayed as close to each other as social distance would allow.

Our report and annual meeting look different this year because we don't necessarily have a report out from every group and committee at St. Mark's. We won't have all of the presentations and celebrations of people and accomplishments quite like we have in past years. We will not get to avail ourselves of the tasty treats we've come to count on during coffee hour, filling our plates before snagging a seat in the Parish Hall, fully prepared for a riveting budget discussion. It will just look and feel different.

However, my questions from last year remain the same. They are just as pertinent now as they were in January of 2020. Where do you see yourself in the pages of this report? How can you share your passion? Your time? Your talent, etc. with this community? Maybe you are gifted at creating music over your laptop. Maybe you have mastered iMovie. Maybe you have created new ways for you and your family to worship at home, and it's something from which we could all learn. We have so many varieties of talents and offerings and uniquely beautiful persons here. If there is ever a year where you can take a chance, a leap of faith, a creative jump, to bring something of yourself to St. Mark's, this is it.

So, while things are more or less unrecognizable compared to last year at this time, I am encouraged by how much of our spiritual life and work remains the same. And how much of our call to love God and love others is unchanged and yet has become life changing in its importance.

St. Mark's, it has been such a pleasure to serve on vestry and to serve these past 2 years as Senior Warden. Your commitment to serving God and serving others was encouraging to me in indescribable ways during some very dark moments this past year. The way you love God and love each other is why we keep coming back to this place. Thank you for who you are, for thriving and growing and struggling through this year, and through it all staying present for one another.

May the peace of the Lord continue to be with you all as we enter into a new year together, whatever it may look like

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredithe Sweeney

## Treasurer's Report

2020! What a year. While the pandemic was raging, St. Mark's was able to hold its own. Our budget for 2020 called for a surplus of \$260.00 and we ended the year with a surplus of \$312.00. The budget included a draw from our Investment Account of \$12,000 but we did not need to take it. What an amazing tribute to our community! Our overall income for the year was down for a variety of reasons. Our tenant, Albuquerque Interfaith, moved out in the first quarter of the year. Facility use fees were down because outside groups were unable to gather. Our plate and income for Christmas and Easter were down because we were unable to worship in person. All of these reductions in income were more than offset by savings in expenses, again largely due to the pandemic and our inability to gather.

In the 2020 Financial report, you will see a section referring to Designated Funds. These are funds that people have contributed in addition to their Estimate of Giving. These funds also include fundraising efforts of the School and Church such as the Plant Sale and Mardi Gras. A new designated fund that was added this year is the COVID Relief Fund which is intended to help those who have suffered economic hardship because of the pandemic. Our community has been very generous in giving to this fund.

St. Mark's budget for 2021 is a reflection of our community's strong commitment to Giving and Growing in Faith. Our giving goal has been increased from \$415,000 to \$450,000. In the budget, we were able to give modest raises to all of the staff and also fully fund our new Organist/Choral director. We also were able to fully fund our contribution to the salary of the ABQ FaithWorks social worker. ABQ FaithWorks is a ministry of the greater Albuquerque community meant to address the short and long-term needs of those living on the margins – migrants and the homeless. The current 2021 budget calls for a small surplus while using a draw of \$22,000. Any giving that comes in beyond the budgeted \$450,000 would directly reduce the amount of draw needed.

For the 2021 Stewardship season, we have received \$446,505 in Estimates of Giving from 119 families. Our goal is to receive 150 Estimates of Giving. One of the markers of vitality at St. Mark's is our number of Estimates of Giving. These personal estimates are an indicator of our personal commitment to being good stewards of what God has given us. If your budget is tight as many are, why not consider a small Estimate of \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month? Every gift is important as St. Mark's strives to become a sustainable congregation for years to come. I personally urge you to prayerfully consider turning in an Estimate of Giving if you have not yet done so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miranda S. Eastham, Treasurer



**Key Statistics at a Glance (2014-2021)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>	139	146	166	162	166	176	75	
<b>Christmas Attendance</b>	297	281	306	337	338	332	120	
<b>Easter Attendance</b>	337	283	294	379	329	391	363	
<b>Children in Sunday School</b>	36	40	45	45	54	62	69	
<b>Outside Groups-Facility Use</b>	16	18	22	19	20	26	22	
<b>Number Pledging Households</b>	112	113	117	115	141	139	133	119*
<b>Total Collected Pledges</b>	\$228,000	\$245,000	\$267,000	\$294,515	\$342,480	\$396,680	\$403,629	Projected: \$450,000† Current: \$446,500
<b>Total Income</b>	\$319,000	\$335,000	\$349,000	\$368,890	\$406,279	\$488,469	\$495,718	\$547,290†
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$368,000	\$360,000	\$364,000	\$368,912	\$410,567	\$493,502	\$495,406	\$547,126†
<b>Income – Expense</b>	\$(49,000)	\$(25,000)	\$(15,000)	\$(22)	\$(4,287)	\$(5,033)	\$312	\$164†
<b>Total Draw on Net Assets</b>	\$76,160	\$19,200	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,040†

*\*2021 figures reflect those that are known at the time of printing on 1/28/21.*

*† These figures are based on projected pledges.*

## Church Operating Budget Summary

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	
<b>Income</b>				
Current Year Pledges*	\$ 415,000	\$ 403,629	\$ 450,000	*currently \$446,500
Other Offerings	\$ 39,750	\$ 41,125	\$ 33,950	
Admin Income	\$ 54,729	\$ 50,964	\$ 41,300	
Income from Investment Account	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 22,040	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 521,479</b>	<b>\$ 495,718</b>	<b>\$ 547,290</b>	
*Number pledging households	133		150	*currently 119

<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel Expenses	\$ 302,626	\$ 283,949	\$ 321,970	
Church Administration	\$ 40,635	\$ 49,750	\$ 42,356	
Building and Grounds	\$ 65,200	\$ 59,899	\$ 65,200	
Church Worship, Formation and Ministry	\$ 18,050	\$ 10,083	\$ 12,300	
Church Outreach	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,600	\$ 6,650	
Greater Church	\$ 91,058	\$ 88,127	\$ 98,651	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 521,219</b>	<b>\$ 495,407</b>	<b>\$ 547,126</b>	

<b>Income - Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 260</b>	<b>\$ 311</b>	<b>\$ 164</b>	
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### Designated Fund Summary

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
Outreach	\$ 26,699	\$ 34,987	\$ (23,937)	\$ 37,749
SMMS Assets	\$ 36,919	\$ 11,371	\$ (44,148)	\$ 4,142
Investment Pass Through	\$ -	\$ 244,343	\$ (244,343)	\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$ 29,762	\$ 53,368	\$ (12,725)	\$ 70,405
Reserve for Sabbatical	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 18,000
Worship & Ministry	\$ 36,203	\$ 11,216	\$ (6,484)	\$ 40,936
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 141,583</b>	<b>\$ 361,286</b>	<b>\$ (331,637)</b>	<b>\$ 171,232</b>

### Investment Account Summary

	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Ending Balance*
Episcopal DFMS Accounts	\$ 331,476	\$ 245,065	\$ -	\$ 612,265

\*preliminary

### St. Mark's Montessori School Budget Summary

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Tuition	\$ 329,299	\$ 200,273	\$ 227,580
Other Income	\$ 26,372	\$ 19,160	\$ 20,753
Grants	\$ -	\$ 37,500	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 355,671</b>	<b>\$ 256,933</b>	<b>\$ 248,333</b>

<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	\$ 302,194	\$ 239,694	\$ 239,205
Classroom	\$ 6,380	\$ 6,449	\$ 10,000
Administration	\$ 15,747	\$ 13,724	\$ 15,048
Facility	\$ 30,522	\$ 30,349	\$ 29,868
COVID	\$ -	\$ 3,490	\$ 4,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 354,843</b>	<b>\$ 293,706</b>	<b>\$ 298,120</b>

<b>Transfer from SMMS Assets</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 36,773</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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<b>Income - Expenses (after Transfer)</b>	<b>\$ 829</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (49,787)</b>
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## Stewardship Reports

### Stewardship

I am happy to write you all with a recap of the Giving, Growing, Grateful in Faith 2021 Stewardship Campaign. This year your stewardship team included Laurel Cabral, Erin Cook, Jeff Devereaux, Aric Elsenheimer, George McJimsey, Lucy Sinkular, Josh Smith, Meredith Sweeney, Erin Cook, and Fr. Christopher, with behind-the-scenes assistance from Treasurer, Miranda Eastham.

This committee always begins work early in the year, for the next year's stewardship plans. We all were a bit apprehensive when in mid-2020 we found ourselves in the grip of Pandemic! Social isolation brought us all new ways of living, worshipping and being a community. The committee members were concerned how to do our work against that backdrop. We were fortunate to participate in a diocese-wide training event that really excited our team members. We chose to go "all in" with a different approach to stewardship. We studied, prayed and discussed the concept of giving as an act of worship and an important part of Christian discipleship.

This focus on worship was very refreshing to us. Instead of beginning with a church budget, and debating what could we afford and what could we not afford and how could we encourage members to give to that budget, we explored the spiritual growth found in giving. We presented the idea of offering your financial support to the church as a percentage of all you earn, rather than some flat amount. The biblical tithe of 10% is something to consider or work toward, but whatever percent someone gives is in itself a faithful response to God's generosity to us. In targeted letters we shared scripture and explained this different approach to stewardship.

Our "Giving Growing Grateful in Faith" campaign featured gorgeous graphics created by Erin that incorporated our Mosaic. Mother Sylvia and family created a clever jingle that we all found ourselves humming. During online worship, we enjoyed the videos where so many of you shared your own stories of gratitude and belonging. Faced with the impossibility of eating pies together, we hosted a "Celebration Sunday" that was a community in-gathering. Clergy danced (masked) and many parishioners did a "drive through" delivery of their estimate of giving cards—some even decorated their cars like floats!

On behalf of the stewardship team, I thank each and every person and household that that has participated with a gift. I look forward to 2021 and watching how our faith community grows through our worship together! We are very humbled by the generosity of the people of St. Mark's, especially in these very uncertain times.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lucy Sinkular, Stewardship Committee Member



### Christian Education

2020 was, in the most delicate of terms, an unusual year for Christian Education at St. Mark's. What started off as "business as usual" in January (education for all ages during the 11:00 hour after the morning liturgy with Godly Play for youth ages 3 through third grade, Seasons of the Spirit for 4th and 5th grades, Rite 13 for middle school youth, J2A for high school youth, and assorted small groups for adults) was completely changed in March when the pandemic did not allow us to meet in person any longer.

St. Mark's quickly adapted to the changes in format. During the summer, Children's Chapel was offered on Wednesday morning for youth ages 3 through 3rd grade. In September, that Chapel moved to 9:00 on Sunday morning before the liturgy. We consistently have between 12 and 15 young people join for a Zoom Room with songs, Bible lessons, stories, and discussion.

Middle and High School youth meet on Sunday evenings at 7:00. The format changes each week but we often talk about what is on the minds of those attending. We share favorite uplifting music videos, poems, and stories.

Adult Education happens at different times in different formats. 2020 offered a study of poetry by Mary Oliver, a seminar of using humor of deal with difficult situations, and book groups on *The Extraordinary Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachel Joyce and *Laurus* by Eugene Vodolazkin, discussion of articles and news during the *Inquirer's Class*, and a class on storytelling.

In 2020 members of St. Mark's continued to grow in our ongoing commitment to anti-racism through engagement in a number of educational opportunities. In the summer, all of our clergy and several of our members participated in a four week online "Anti-Racist Primer" course hosted by the Truth & Titus Collective. We also initiated two new book groups: A 9-month study group of "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Ibram X Kendi that meets online the 4th Monday of each month at 7PM; and a 9-month study group of "Raising White Kids" by Jennifer Harvey that meets online the 3rd Sunday of each month at 7:30PM. For more information, contact Mother Sylvia.

In early March, 15 youth of St. Mark's were honored to meet and talk to Brother Angel Roque, a candidate for the position of Diocesan Youth Missioner. We spent an evening with Brother Angel eating pizza and talking about what was important to our youth. After a pandemic induced delay, it was announced in January 2021 that Brother Angel has been hired as the Youth Missioner for our diocese.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Martin

## Worship and Prayer in 2020

Lent 2020 saw a sudden and dramatic change to the ways we gathered for worship and prayer at St. Mark's. One Sunday in March we were all worshipping together in the Nave. The next Sunday Deacon David, Fr. Christopher, and Mother Sylvia were celebrating the Eucharist in Christopher's office, with a cell phone mounted on a coat rack streaming to Facebook live. On Palm Sunday the clergy returned to the Nave to celebrate the Eucharist, and on Holy Saturday we ventured for the first time into the land of "Zoom Church", which enabled broader lay leadership and participation in our corporate digital worship.

Throughout the Spring we offered a wide variety of weekly opportunities for members of St. Mark's to gather for online prayer and worship: Sunday Eucharist, Monday Contemplation and Chant, Tuesday Rosary, Wednesday Family Worship, Thursday Eucharist and Saturday Family Worship.

In late Summer/early Fall, after the Vestry and Staff successfully completed the "Phase II Workbook" required by our Bishop for all congregations in the Diocese of the Rio Grande, we began supplementing our online worship gatherings with small, in person gatherings: Wednesday Evening Prayer in the Nave, Thursday Eucharist in the Courtyard, Sunday Evening Eucharist in the Garden.

In November, with the dramatic rise in COVID infections in Bernalillo County, we were forced to pause all "in person" worship gatherings and return to exclusively online worship gatherings.

The year culminated with the personal delivery of Christmas Communion to every household in the parish, and a festive online Pageant & Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve.

As infection rates decline and vaccination rates rise, we look forward to the gradual return of small, in person gatherings for prayer and worship and the continuing development of hybrid services in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia



## Music at St. Mark's

COVID-19 and the ban on singing in groups presented unique challenges for making music together at St. Mark's in 2020. Nevertheless, St. Mark's musicians were extraordinarily courageous and generous in stepping forward to offer their gifts in a variety of ways. Kathie, Sylvia+ and Christopher+ comprised the corps of "live musicians" leading worship on Sunday mornings from the building of St. Mark's, but the majority of musical leadership came from beyond the Nave. St. Mark's children continued to prepare and share an offertory song for worship each month. St. Mark's Voices (teens) regularly led the Psalms for weekly Sunday worship, and offered beautiful vocal music for Holy Week and Christmas, as well as Sunday worship. Instrumentalists from the congregation, including Rowan McJimsey, Blythe Clark, Mike Rector, and others assisted in providing live weekly prelude and postlude music from home. Donnel Miller-Mutia developed his longtime love of Byzantine liturgical Chant. Art Dougherty and Gayle Keenan pre-recorded numerous guitar and flute collaborations. Bill Foote spearheaded several Acapella collaborations and even created a brand new (virtual) choral composition for St. Mark's for Epiphany! Choir members raised their voices in song for multiple musical collaborations, learning to use a variety of new apps and devices, from Acapella, to GarageBand, to iMovie, to the "voice memo" on our smartphones. Evelyn Early, Sofia & Maren McLaren, Nancy Kuttensch, Blythe Clark, Chuck Peterson, Barry Hogge, Ken Reese, Ken Eberhard, Mark Miller and others participated in these choral collaborations. COUNTLESS musicians of all ages pitched in to contribute to our three Christmas Carol Sings on Zoom. Mother Sylvia and Deacon David did their best to provide direction and support for these various musical endeavors, in a process Sylvia+ cheerfully refers to as "the blind leading the high heeled."

The sabbatical from musical "business as usual" afforded our longtime organist and choir director, Kathie MacDonald-Vargo the opportunity to hear and heed God's call to focus her time and energy in new ways. At the beginning of the summer Kathie retired from serving as choir director and at the end of the year she retired from serving as organist at St. Mark's. We are grateful to Kathie for her many years of service, and look forward to supporting her as she transitions into a new phase of ministry as an active member (as opposed to staff person) at St. Mark's. Meanwhile we look forward to welcoming Jeremy Wirths as our next professional Minister of Music to St. Mark's beginning February 1st.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia, Associate Rector

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continued to serve St. Mark's in 2020 by setting up both our live and online worship services special services such as funerals. Altar Guild also stepped in to help with new COVID-registration requirements when we were able to offer them. We are blessed with a both a dedicated leader and group of volunteers whom the church and clergy always relies upon-- but even more so in this COVID-year when we had to make adjustments for safety. The staff and clergy are especially thankful for Karen McDaniel's leadership, commitment and consistent donation of time. Thank you also to all those who sought to provide continuity of worship in uncomfortable circumstances.

Altar Guild is a fulfilling ministry and a wonderful opportunity to serve the clergy and parish of St. Mark's. Please email or call Karen McDaniel or the office for information on serving in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Lind, Parish Administrator

## Church Administration Reports

### Communications Report

When the pandemic reached the city of Albuquerque in March, we went from an entirely non-technical liturgy to only available online -- overnight. St. Mark's staff and clergy spent a good amount of time discerning how to get the majority of parishioners to be able to view liturgies online. The Messenger electronic newsletter has been a useful tool for getting word out on upcoming events, changes, new tools available, and more. The Messenger was also moved from Wednesday weekly delivery to Friday weekly delivery.

There was clearly a need to have an updated, easy-to-navigate website that would allow users to quickly get to where they want to go. We changed platforms and created an entirely new website that went live in May. We created an Online Offerings page that allows users to have all links to happenings going on via Zoom or Facebook Live. We also added already-aired worship services to our sermons page. A Stewardship page was created to make all communications that went out, forms, and so forth to be on one page. PayPal buttons were created to be on the footer and Giving pages of the website, as well.

We also implemented Google as a cloud storage to share documents, create sign-up forms for online classes. Later, during September-October, we COVID-19 test positivity rates were below 10%, so we used Google Forms to create registration forms for in-person liturgies. The registration forms also served as contact tracing requirements by the State of New Mexico.

A photo member directory had not been updated since 2018. Clearly, with not being able to attend in-person, we felt a big need to help facilitate the strong relational fabric of this parish. So, a massive staff effort took place to import member data and photos into a secure online site that could be open to all members (only those in the directory), that members could maintain and upload photos, could access online, download a printable PDF, or use on-the-go via installing an app on a mobile device. It went live in October and continues to be updated regularly by parishioners and staff. It has also been a useful tool for care-package/Eucharist deliveries for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Communications has cross-trained the Parish Administrator to ensure job-knowledge redundancy going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Cook, Communications Coordinator

## Building Administration

A reduction in the amount of building use, including worship, preschool, and internal and external meetings, has allowed us to concentrate on any repairs that may be difficult to complete while building use is heavy. St. Mark's completed the following major repairs in 2020:

- Full Library remodel was completed with new carpet, sink, refrigerator, an audio/visual presentation system, furniture and blinds. The repairs included electrical, drywall, tile, cabinetry, plumbing, and paint to complete the full scope of work. Special thanks to Liz and Mike Reardon for their gifts of advice, oversight and sweat to complete the job.
- Main water supply line from the City to the church on west side was replaced.
- Night lights around the building replaced with LED lighting including the replacement of about 1/3 of the building's sensor lights that were inoperable. All outside security lights now work.
- Wrought iron extensions added to the west side secondary access to make the building more secure.
- North side roof over the Undercroft fire escape was repaired, and all ceiling drywall replaced and repaired.
- Extensive heating and cooling repairs and upgrades were completed, including a new computer panel for the north boiler, and filters and ductwork changes to meet COVID requirements for the preschool.

In addition, routine maintenance has continued in 2020 with our Facilities Manager, Leo C'de Baca, able to complete a longstanding list of repairs that he's been working on since his hire. Most important, all standard exterior maintenance has been completed to keep the building in its best condition.

A number of landscape projects were completed in 2020 including the courtyard - plaques installed and tree /bush replacements. Leo has worked to improve the grass in Fish Garden to overcome extensive weed damage from past years, but the sod will likely eventually need to be replaced. Three large pine trees in front of the preschool also had to be removed after storm damage as they were at risk of falling.

Leo completed a great deal of wall and trim painting inside the building with the opportunity of having the building fairly empty. Those repairs included old water damage at the west portal, Mother Sylvia's office, Stoney Chapel and Columbarium, the Communion rail, doors and trim in parish hall, the main office areas, the hall between the school and the parish hall, mismatched doors, office windows and railing in entrance hall.

### Staff List

The Rev. Christopher McLaren  
Rector

The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia  
Associate Rector

The Rev. David Martin  
Deacon and Director of Family Ministry

Jeremy Wirths  
Director of Music

Tricia Morton  
Director, St. Mark's Montessori School



Bruce Roach  
Business Manager

Erin Cook  
Communications Coordinator

Jennifer Lind  
Parish Administrator

Leo C' de Baca  
Facilities Manager



Altar Guild  
Karen McDaniel

### Volunteer "Staff"

Miranda Eastham  
Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer  
Ken Reese

### Associated Clergy (Non-Stipendiary)

The Rev. Robert Batton  
Pastoral Associate (Ret.)

The Rev. Neil Elliot  
Pastoral Associate

The Rev. Patricia Green  
Pastoral Associate (Ret.)

The Rev. Rhonda McIntire  
Pastoral Associate (Retired)

## Mission and Outreach Reports

### Breakfast Ministry at Hopeworks

We began 2020 with breakfast at Hopeworks on the second Sunday of January 2020. We said good-bye to Gary and Kelly and Pat White as they moved on to new adventures in Mexico and Texas, respectively. Who knew then that the meal we served in March 2020 would be the last meal service before COVID-19 changed everything? Many of us stayed home and only ventured out for supplies.



The need for the meal service remained as high as ever. The virus didn't change that at all. We did what we felt was a reasonable accommodation to the pandemic and the stay-at-home requirements. We contacted the volunteer coordinator at Hopeworks and we agreed to send a check to cover the cost of meals for our May, July and September meals. We also donated cash to Roadrunner Food Bank this year as we saw the need to help the food bank as well.

We returned to "in-person" meal service in November with a smaller group serving the meal. We now have a new volunteer "job" – Since we have reduced the number of servers, we need help delivering food from the church to Hopeworks on Sunday morning. It is about an hour commitment – meet us at 7:00 am, load up, drive downtown and unload. We modified our menu – no beans for now and we changed the milk and juice to bottled water. We also moved some of our work to the Saturday before the breakfast. While JoAnn and her group make the casseroles, we put together bags with napkins, utensils, bottled water, breakfast bars and a piece of fruit. 175 bags.

We never know for sure how many people will show up for a meal on our Sunday. We plan for 175, knowing full well that any "extra food" will be used the next day. No waste. The folks who work at Hopeworks truly appreciate the love and food we bring.

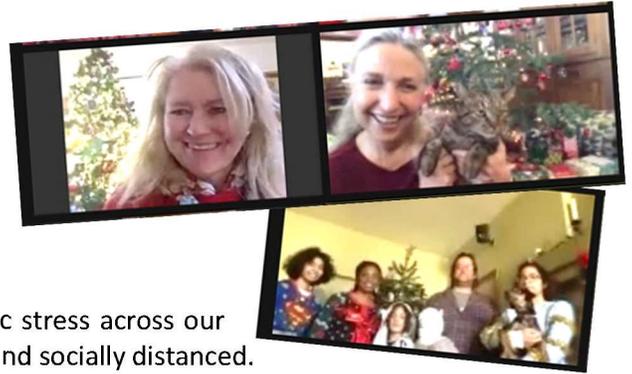
We will be serving breakfast at Hopeworks on the following second Sunday of odd-numbered months:

January 10 March 7 May 9 (Mothers' Day) July 11 September 12 November 14

We are expanding our Ministry in 2021 so we can collect and deliver warm clothing, new socks and underwear. The need is great, especially for socks and underwear.

Thank you, St. Marks, for supporting this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Camera



## **ABQ FaithWorks Collaborative Rising to the COVID Challenge**

In 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic creating health and economic stress across our city, ABQ FaithWorks Collaborative rose to the challenge – masked and socially distanced.

St. Mark's was one of the 10 original congregations to establish FaithWorks to help congregations meet the needs of people in our neighborhoods who suffer a lack of housing, food and other poverty-related issues.

Last year, FaithWorks grew to 12 congregations, including in addition to St. Mark's, First Congregational UCC, St. Andrew Presbyterian, Monte Vista Christian, St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal, Albuquerque Mennonite, University Heights UNM, Community of Hope, Immanuel Presbyterian, St. Paul Lutheran, First Unitarian, and St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal.

Valerie Griego, social services coordinator, continued to meet with clients, either by phone, video call, or in person at UCC Congregational, the location of the FaithWorks office. Valerie provides direct services to unhoused people with a variety of issues and needs. She helps people connect to resources they may not otherwise know about, and ultimately strengthening the already existing positive relationships in these communities, as well as fostering new ones. Because of the overwhelming needs in these COVID-19 times, Valerie also is doing intakes at one of the wellness hotels funded by the city, where COVID-negative families with children and people at high-risk are housed.

Broadening its scope, ABQ FaithWorks incorporated the city's Albuquerque Asylum Seeker program to meet the needs of immigrant families living in our community. After serving as coordinator for the Albuquerque Asylum Seeker Council (ABQ ASC), Jessica Corley joined ABQ FaithWorks and works with teams of volunteers and finds additional resources and trainings for the immigrant families. She recruits volunteers, finds funding sources, and coordinates with liaisons to make sure the families' needs are met.

FaithWorks developed a robust eviction-prevention program to meet dire housing needs in these COVID times. Member congregations and individuals have come forth with extra monies to keep people housed as the economy struggles. In 2020, FaithWorks has provided rental assistance to at least 27 families. Due to limited funds, eviction prevention monies are used to help families over a financial hump rather than a form of more permanent assistance.

ABQ FaithWorks joined the UNM Pathways Program network to build relationships of trust with at-risk, underserved county residents, guiding and connecting them to housing, employment, education, health care or other support systems, as needed. This 5-year grant funds another social worker with FaithWorks.

A major strength of FaithWorks is its community collaboration, agency collaboration, and volunteer base. Because we are made up of 12 caring congregations, we have numerous volunteers who have established relationships with various food,

healthcare, and homeless agencies and we volunteer in them and serve on boards. We also advocate in an organized way, largely through Albuquerque Interfaith, for systemic change.

This volunteer base is key in getting many basic needs met for our clients. A "giving tree" request going out to 12 congregations net furniture, baby clothes, winter coats, basic foods, and money for eviction prevention. COVID-19 has limited direct volunteering with clients but the intent is to have trained volunteers that are able to assist clients with paperwork such as SS, SSI, Medicaid, legally accepted identification, food stamps, and employment opportunities. In the meantime, volunteers serve as fundraisers, administrators, advocates, and publicists.

FaithWorks collaborates with the City of Albuquerque, UNM Pathways, Bernalillo County, Heading Home, Project Share, Family Promise, and New Mexico Immigrant Law.

To learn more about FaithWorks, check out the newly designed web site at [abqfaithworks.org](http://abqfaithworks.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Mallick

## Sacred Arts Gallery

The Sacred Arts Ministry was looking forward to an exciting year of several exhibits in the St. Mark's Parish Hall. When we removed paintings from the Winter exhibit on February 26, we were to install a show called Reflections, however, it and all following exhibits for the remainder of 2020 were canceled due to COVID-19. Many artists were ready to deliver their paintings but sadly we had to call and ask them not to come to the Church.

We began plans for a new mural on the wall outside the school, but that too has been put on hold.

2020 was a painful year for more than the artists who exhibit at St. Mark's. Several members of St. Mark's died from COVID-19 and many more became sick from the pandemic. The Sacred Arts Ministry is hoping that this year we may in some way honor those and those who are still struggling with illness through our paintings and rejoice in the vaccines which have been developed.

We pray for an end to this dreaded disease, vaccines for all, and to be able to return to live worship together in the Nave of St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey Minard

## New Mexico School of Sacred Arts (NMSSA) Iconography

Icons allow us to integrate our prayers through visual meditation into our faith life. Join us as we share, with the grace of God, our creation of Icons with egg tempera and gold leaf on wood panels in the Russian Byzantine style, and explore the theology, meditation and technique of praying with Icons .

Church Feast Day Icons: Fourteen (30" x 22" each) Icons hanging on the North Nave Wall Icon Commission is completed.

Litany of Saints Icons: Six (24" x18" each) Icons hanging on the South Nave Wall Icon Commission is nearly completed.

Sept. 2019 – Jan. 2020 first and third Saturdays 9:30-3PM 'Mother of God of Kykkos' ten-meeting Advanced Icon class instructed by Iconographer, Lin Marksbury, assisted by Brett Braud, with 5 students met in St. Mark's Stoney Chapel.

Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2020 second and fourth Saturdays 9:30- 3PM 'Archangel Michael' eight-meeting Beginning class instructed by Iconographer Pat Catlett, assisted by Rev. Pat Green, with 6 students met in St. Mark's Stoney Chapel

Feb. 2020 Icon Studio facilitated by Brett Braud offered.

Nov. 29, 2020 Beginning of Advent- Large (48" X 36") Icon of 'Mother of God, Hodigitria' by Pat Catlett installed.

In March, COVID-19 halted all on-site classes until we can meet in-person again.

We give thanks to St. Mark's for your continued generous support of The NMSSA ministry.

Christ is among us! He IS and Shall BE!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Catlett, Iconographer/Instructor (NMSSA) Secretary

## Men's Group

The St. Mark's Men's Group continues to meet virtually on the second Sunday of each month. While we miss each other's presence and our regular staples of coffee, bagels, and in-person fellowship, we continue to present topics of interest to the group, followed by our usual honest and sane discussions. Look in the St. Mark's Messenger for our announcements and Zoom link; and don't forget that *all are welcome so come as you are*.

## Intercessory Prayer Team

St. Mark's Intercessory Prayer Team is a group of about 50 committed members who pray for the need, cares, and concerns of our community. Prayer requests are sent to Deacon David who then emails the prayers to the group. If you would like to be a member of this prayer team, please contact Deacon David.

Prayers are most often requested for family members and friends of St. Mark's parishioners. Permission from the person we are praying for is required to be added to the prayer list. These prayers and matters we pray about are completely confidential within the group. They are not discussed among those who pray.

Deacon David encourages prayers for members of our own community as well. Please do not be afraid to share your own concerns with the prayer team.

Updates to the prayer list are compiled and sent to the team quarterly.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon David Martin

## St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS)

St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS) was established in the fall of 2013. We are currently in the middle of our eighth year at St. Mark's. The school continues to provide a quality Montessori-based education to a culturally and economically diverse group of children. Children have the opportunity to explore and learn through "hands on" experiences, in a loving Christian environment that fosters imagination and creativity. The Montessori approach is first and foremost a philosophy, and secondly a methodology. We provide Montessori materials and a Montessori curriculum to foster individual and independent learning, building on the gifts in every child. SMMS employs Montessori Certified Lead Teachers and provides Montessori training opportunities for all school employees.

This year, the school has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, 2020, the school operated 3 classrooms with 48 students, and a full afterschool daycare program. On March 13, 2020, the school closed its doors to in-classroom learning, and converted to virtual online learning facilitated by the lead teachers. The virtual learning included the regular Montessori curriculum, along with yoga, Spanish and religious education. The school continued with virtual learning through the end of May, holding a drive-by graduation celebration for students and their families. School and church staff participated in this fun celebration.

In mid-July, the school had 40 preregistered students. By early August, the number of committed families was much lower, due to continued concerns about the pandemic. The school opened in August with total of 17 students, in 2 classrooms with 3 lead teachers, 3 assistants and 1 director. The Board made the decision to cancel the afterschool program until a later date to be determined. Strict protocols were put in place to ensure the safety of children and staff. We are pleased to report that the school has remained COVID-free since August. In October, the school held virtual parent-teacher

conferences that were very well received. The school continues to use Bloomz for speedy communication to parents regarding school activities and events. Teachers prepare monthly newsletters that are fun and informative.

In early January, Ms. Denise Talamante informed the Board she would be retiring from her position as Director for SMMS in the coming month. With this disappointing news, the Board got busy writing a new Director job description, advertising the position, and planning for an unexpected change. Ms. Denise's last day was January 15, 2021. She was bid a fond farewell with gifts of flowers, cards, gifts and a cash purse.

Six individuals applied to be our Director. On Thursday, January 21, the Board offered Ms. Tricia Morton the position of Director for SMMS. We are thrilled beyond belief that she accepted our offer and will return to work at SMMS. Many of you may recall Tricia previously served as Assistant Director for SMMS. She will carry on the quality Montessori tradition of our school.

As of this date, our enrollment is up to 25 students. We are considering opening another classroom to make way for additional spring enrollments. Preregistration for Fall 2021 will start in late February. We hope to reinstate afterschool daycare starting in August 2021.

The dedicated members of the school board have been meeting often to address the evolving challenges, however, we have continued to focus on three key areas: the safety of our children, supporting our excellent teachers and staff, and delivering the quality Montessori education that our families expect. Our belief in St. Mark's Montessori school, and the families it serves, energized the Board to discover solutions for the immediate challenges - and also to think critically about the future of SMMS. We are pleased to see Ms. Tricia return to our family, and we look forward to working closely with her as she enacts her vision to enhance the education at St. Mark's Montessori School. This is an incredible start to 2021, and we're excited to see it continue to get even better.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maribelle Ogilvie, SMMS Board Clerk

### **St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS) Treasurer's Report**

SMMS began 2020 with high enrollment (45) and a budget with a small surplus. And then COVID happened. SMMS was forced to physically close April & May 2020, although the teachers continued to provide virtual instruction and no staff was laid off. Families were asked to continue to pay 80% of their tuition and most generously did. SMMS reopened in Aug 2020 with strict adherence to State health safety protocols, but enrollment plunged to 22 students and expenses were higher because of COVID. SMMS was awarded two COVID-related grants totaling \$37,500, but still ended 2020 with a deficit of \$36,773 which was covered through a transfer from the SMMS Assets fund. The church was awarded a COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) which included a \$10,000 grant which was provided by the Vestry to the SMMS Assets fund.

2021 will be a year of rebuilding for SMMS. There are currently 25 students enrolled, and this is projected to grow to at least 40 students in the fall. SMMS continues to have high expenses driven by COVID requirements with a projected 2021 deficit of \$49,787. In 2020, St. Mark's was awarded a \$98,762 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The proceeds from this loan were used to pay church and school salaries in 2020. The loan is expected to be forgiven in 2021, and the funds made available by this loan forgiveness should be sufficient to cover the SMMS deficit. SMMS fully expects to return to a balanced budget in 2022!

It's been a great honor to support the dedicated staff and families of the St. Mark's Montessori School.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth W. Reese, SMMS Treasurer

## **St. Mark's Montessori School Board Members**

### **Voting Members**

Andrew Clark, Chair – Term ends May 31, 2022

Shirley Rich, Chair – Term ends May 31, 2021

John Harlow – Term ends May 31, 2021

Ken Reese, SMMS Treasurer – Term ends May 31, 2022

Maribelle Ogilvie, Clerk – Term ends May 31, 2023

### **Non-Voting Members**

Tricia Morton, Director

Father Christopher McLaren

Katie Howie, Parent Liaison

Al Green, ESQ, Legal advisor

Miranda Eastham, SMEC Treasurer



## St. Mark's Ministry List

†- denotes an opportunity for calling a new leader.

If you are interested in any of our Ministries, please contact the person listed. We are always excited to welcome new members to our Ministries!

MINISTRY	PURPOSE	MINISTRY CONTACT	CONTACT INFO.
Vestry	Define and articulate the congregation's mission; to support that mission by word and deed, select the rector, ensure effective organization and planning, and manage resources and finances.	Meredithe Sweeney Sr. Warden	<a href="mailto:meredithehalt@gmail.com">meredithehalt@gmail.com</a> 602-405-2260
Office Volunteers	Welcome all to St. Mark's and support the staff.	Jennifer Lind	<a href="mailto:stmarks@stmarksabq.org">stmarks@stmarksabq.org</a> 262-2484
Servants of Worship	Advise the Rector in matters of worship and ensure that the worship experience flows smoothly and holds meaning.	†	
Ushers	Welcome all to St. Mark's.	†	
Eucharist Bread Baker	Prepares Eucharistic bread every Sunday.	Lynette Cole and Ron Hanks	<a href="mailto:lynettebill@gci.net">lynettebill@gci.net</a> 908-8722 <a href="mailto:ron@rhdesign.com">ron@rhdesign.com</a>
Altar Guild	Sets up for all worship and sacramental services, cleans and decorates for high holy days. Maintains altar fixtures and vestments.	Karen McDaniel	<a href="mailto:karenmac1@aol.com">karenmac1@aol.com</a> 250-8451
St. Mark's Choir	Sings every Sunday, Sept.-June; director helps plan all liturgical music.	Jeremy Wirths	<a href="mailto:music@stmarksabq.org">music@stmarksabq.org</a> 358-6729
St. Mark's Voices	Older children's choir that practices and sings regularly at St. Mark's worship and special events.	Jacque Zander-Wall	<a href="mailto:jzander@aol.com">jzander@aol.com</a> 610-2989
Christian Education/ Small Group Leaders	Plan curriculum, writes newsletter, recruits and schedules teachers.	David Martin	<a href="mailto:edu@stmarksabq.org">edu@stmarksabq.org</a> 262-2484
Inquirers' Group	Holds fall classes that educate new (and old) members about our church, theology, history and faith practice.	Fr. Christopher McLaren	<a href="mailto:christopher@stmarksabq.org">christopher@stmarksabq.org</a> 331-4638
Welcoming Committee	Welcomes all every Sunday, plans newcomer events, advises on communications that target potential and new members.	Laurel Cabral	<a href="mailto:lmleisher@aol.com">lmleisher@aol.com</a> 379-6664
Stewardship Team	Plans, organizes and executes annual giving campaign.	Lucy Sinkular	<a href="mailto:lucy-sinkular@gmail.com">lucy-sinkular@gmail.com</a> 703-638-4286
Building Assets	Evaluates building space for opportunities to increase income and/or community use of St. Mark's facility.	Liz Reardon	<a href="mailto:elizabethcreardon@gmail.com">elizabethcreardon@gmail.com</a> 301-1912
Summer of Conversation	Strengthens relationships among parishioners and encourages community activism through initiating and building one-on-one friendships.	Fr. Christopher McLaren	<a href="mailto:christopher@stmarksabq.org">christopher@stmarksabq.org</a> 331-4638

MINISTRY	PURPOSE	MINISTRY CONTACT	CONTACT INFO.
NM School of Sacred Arts	Gives classes in iconography year-round.	Pat Catlett	<a href="mailto:pat.catlettarts@gmail.com">pat.catlettarts@gmail.com</a>
Sacred Arts Gallery	Displays community artists' work in parish hall, provides meeting space for local artists, generates income for parish.	Audrey Minard Anne Fritz	<a href="mailto:aminard42@msn.com">aminard42@msn.com</a> 281-1966 <a href="mailto:annegordonsilks1@gmail.com">annegordonsilks1@gmail.com</a> . 404-213-3772
Intercessory Prayer Team	Connects parishioners who intentionally pray for others with those who request spiritual intervention.	David Martin	<a href="mailto:edu@stmarksabq.org">edu@stmarksabq.org</a> 262-2484
Celebrations (Mardi Gras, Easter Vigil, etc.)	Organizes large parish fundraisers and parties.	†	
Summer of Conversation	Strengthens relationships among parishioners and encourages community activism through initiating and building one-on-one friendships.	Fr. Christopher McLaren	<a href="mailto:christopher@stmarksabq.org">christopher@stmarksabq.org</a> 331-4638
Breakfast Ministry at Hopeworks	Plans, cooks, serves and cleans up after breakfast for 200-300 homeless every two months at St. Martin's Hospitality Center.	Joan Camera	<a href="mailto:jcamera333@gmail.com">jcamera333@gmail.com</a> 505-440-8984
Take Them a Meal	Networks with parishioners who agree to cook a meal/s for members in need of some temporary support.	†	
Alb Interfaith	Interfaith community action group that lobbies for social justice in schools and immigration policies.	Pauline Artery John Murray	<a href="mailto:arteryp@gmail.com">arteryp@gmail.com</a> 382-5255
Montessori School	Preschool for 25-50 students that operates on the grounds of St. Mark's August-May.	Tricia Morton, Director	<a href="mailto:school@stmarksabq.org">school@stmarksabq.org</a> 582-3898
St. Mark's Voices	Older children's choir that practices and sings regularly at St. Mark's worship and special events.	Jacque Zander-Wall	<a href="mailto:jzander@aol.com">jzander@aol.com</a> 610-2989
Brown Bag Bridge	Builds fellowship and connections among bridge-playing members once a month.	Jacque Zander-Wall	<a href="mailto:jzander@aol.com">jzander@aol.com</a> 610-2989
Healing Ministry	Provides healing to parishioners once a month at Sunday worship and trains parishioners as healers.	Susan Smith-Pierce	<a href="mailto:spierce.swfgc@gmail.com">spierce.swfgc@gmail.com</a> 268-4545
Coffee Team Ministry	Sets up food and drink for fellowship after worship every Sunday.	Kim Harlow	<a href="mailto:kimharlow10@gmail.com">kimharlow10@gmail.com</a> 239-3653
Human Rights & Social Justice	Christ-centered ministry for working in our parish and in the community for anything having to do with Human Rights and Social Justice issues.	†	
Contemplative Prayer	Offers a Thursday morning contemplative sit in Stoney Chapel at 8:30 a.m.	Donnelle Miller-Mutia	<a href="mailto:donnemillermutia@gmail.com">donnemillermutia@gmail.com</a> 510-932-1762
Montessori School Board	Board for St. Mark's Montessori School	Andrew Clark	<a href="mailto:mr.andrew.clark@gmail.com">mr.andrew.clark@gmail.com</a> 366-1301
Men's Group	Men's fellowship and study	John Harlow	<a href="mailto:johnharlow@comcast.net">johnharlow@comcast.net</a> 239-3653

## Vestry Members and Delegates 2018-21

### 2018-2020 Term

Susan Smith-Pierce  
Meredithe Sweeney  
Ken Stalter

### 2020-2022 Term

Laurel Cabral  
Aric Elsenheimer  
Melanie Peterson

### 2019 – 2021 Term

Adam Squire  
Tom Blueher  
Karen Longenecker

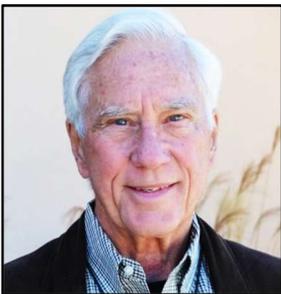
## Executive Committee of the Vestry

<b>Rector</b>	The Rev. Christopher McLaren
<b>Sr. Warden</b>	Meredithe Sweeney
<b>Jr. Warden</b>	Laurel Cabral
<b>Treasurer</b>	Miranda Eastham
<b>Clerk</b>	Jeffrey Deavereaux

## Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Deanery Representatives

Delegate 1 Sherry Reeder      **Term 2019-2021**

## Vestry Nominees



### **Barry Hogge**

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, I attended VPI (Virginia Tech now), and went to grad school there before finishing my graduate work at Johns Hopkins. I came to Albuquerque for active duty in the Air Force in 1968. Four years later, I separated from the Air Force (as a captain), and took a job at what is now the Air Force Research Laboratory on Kirtland AFB. I retired from the laboratory in 2000, and have continued to work in that laboratory in a variety of arrangements, one of which was as an employee of New Mexico Tech (in Socorro). Today, I have a consulting business with other major tech companies and still work for the Laboratory.

In my first marriage, I had the good fortune to have two sons. When Kristin and I married in 1981, we were blessed again with two sons of our own as well as two wonderful boys from her first marriage. Today, our boys range in age from 30 to 50 years old, and all but the youngest one live out of New Mexico. When I was young, I attended a Methodist, then Lutheran, then Methodist and finally another Lutheran church after finally coming to Albuquerque. When Kristin and I married, we began attending St John's Cathedral, where she had been raised. We attended the Cathedral until 1999, at which time we moved to the east mountains near Edgewood, NM. There was no Episcopal church in Edgewood but a small group of new and old locals were just beginning to foster one. Attending services in the Edgewood Elementary School gymnasium on old Route 66, we eventually built a small, frame/metal building of our own north of town, and so we began to grow Holy Cross Episcopal church of Edgewood. I had the privilege of being on their vestry during those early (and difficult) years.

A little over ten years ago, we built a townhouse on Candelaria near the nature center and I began looking for a new church. The very first time I came to St Marks', I knew that I had found my home and I have been here ever since. A couple of years ago we lost one of our beloved boys, a tragedy that we continue to struggle with now. St Marks, Fr Christopher and many others were our anchor and beacon during those dark days. St Marks is my home. It has been there when we needed it, and I will be there for it. Thank you for giving me the honor to offer my name in nomination for St Marks' Vestry.



### George McJimsey

I grew up in Colorado Springs with my two sisters - raised by parents who were professors at Colorado College and active members of Grace Church and Stephen's Episcopal Church. My belief that the life of the mind informs and strengthens the life of faith (and that, indeed, they are one) grew, no doubt, through my upbringing on a college campus and a church nearby. This, and a recognition that the strength of any community - be it faith-based or otherwise - flows from the willingness of its members to participate, and to foster the relationships that will help it to grow. It is this commitment to participation and relationships that I hope to bring to the Vestry at St. Mark's.

My wife Brenna and I - and sons Rowan and Malcolm - found our spiritual home at St. Mark's three years ago. We have become "members" week by week - day by day - through worship and conversation, and have always felt welcome. Meanwhile, I continue to explore the contours of the life of the mind (and perhaps of life in general) with middle and high school students at Sandia Preparatory School, where I have taught for twenty-one years.



### Lucy Sinkular

I was raised and confirmed in the Roman Catholic faith, and was received into the Episcopal Church in 1995, at St. Mark's in Albuquerque. Although my husband Scott and I lived in Albuquerque when we were newlyweds, we were absent from the parish from 1997 to 2017 while we moved around the world for Scott's military career. During this time, we also raised our two children Emily and John, who are now 22 and 21 years old.

I have always felt drawn into a closer relationship with God. In every parish we have called home throughout 28 years of marriage, I have volunteered in some capacity or another. I have attended Bible Studies, been a Lector, a Lay Eucharistic Minister, a Vestry member, a stewardship worker and a Sunday school teacher. Now, I feel a strong calling to serve St. Mark's as a member of the Vestry. I would like to assist in the mission of the clergy and our members as we all strive together to make something beautiful for God in our neighborhood. To me, those are not just words! I think we each have an opportunity to serve Christ in one another. I would like to have a part in helping each member deepen his or her faith and also help our members discover their unique gifts. I think serving on the Vestry would allow me to contribute to our community in a really good way.

Professionally, I have been an attorney for 25 years. I practice family law as a shareholder at Atkinson & Kelsey, PA. Even though it may seem sad, I do enjoy using my abilities to help families in transition and crisis. I also serve as a Commissioner for the New Mexico State Bar Association and am involved as the President of the Women's State Bar. In my free time, I enjoy camping, hiking, running and spending time with my wonderful partner, Scott. Thank you for considering me as a member of your Vestry.

## Delegate to Convention Nominees



### Mary Beth Libbey

Mary Beth, 68, is retired from teaching and business journalism after 20 years in each career. She holds a masters in journalism from Northwestern University and a master of fine art in creative writing from the University of New Mexico. Mary Beth also worked part-time at St. Mark's from 2011-2016 as parish administrator.

Mary Beth grew up in an Irish Catholic household in an industrial town near California's San Joaquin River delta. Mary Beth started attending the Episcopal church after being married by the Episcopal chaplain at Northwestern in 1977. She was received at St. Mark's in 2012.

Last year, Mary Beth served out the last months of Dollie Lowery's term as convention delegate. She learned a great deal about the activities of the diocese, especially its work in border communities and was impressed with Bishop Hunn's management through difficult financial times. She would like to continue in this position.

## Attachment 1: FY 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2020

### 2019 Annual Meeting, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Minutes

#### Opening Prayer- Pat Green

#### Leadership

1. Call to Order- Rev. Christopher McLaren
2. Appointment of Secretary- Laurel Cabral as Clerk of the Vestry is appointed
3. Approval of the January 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting minutes- Approved
4. Approval of the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes- no approval needed at this time- minutes included in the packet.
5. Senior Warden Address- Meredith Sweeney as Senior Warden.  
Addressing the growth and change in the church & parish, as well as in herself. Hopes in 2020 for everyone to be able to see themselves here at the church in any way that you fit. Goals for the Vestry: act as Ministry Liaisons, implement a solid Vestry Orientation, work on a stable financial future for St. Marks.

#### Music: Mother Sylvia- All Rise, Shine

6. Election of New Vestry Members & Delegates-Meredith Sweeney & Ken Stalter. There's a motion from the floor: Ken Stalter-addressing the by-laws. If there is a runoff or other issues arise- adopt Roberts Rules and By Laws of the Canon of the Rio Grande. A Motion, a second, Discussion. Move for the Vote, second, so moved. Page 26 on the Report has the Bios.  
MaryBeth Libby is nominated from the Floor by Diane Reese. She accepted the nomination.
7. Introduction of Clergy Staff & Associate Clergy - Rev. Christopher McLaren  
Mother Sylvia, Deacon David, Father Christopher, Rev. Pat Greene, Rev. Bob Batton (sang Happy Birthday to him!), Clergy Associate is Neil Elliot. Rev. Rhonda McIntyre will be finding her way into Ministry at St Marks as well. Rev. Jim Porter is also a member of our church.
8. Introduction of Lay Staff-Rev. Christopher McLaren  
Erin Cook, Jennifer Lindt, Allen Clauson, Leo C'de Baca.
9. Thank You to Vestry- Fr. Christopher
10. Thank you to Outgoing Vestry-Meredith Sweeney. Saying Goodbye to Sherry Reeder, Joan Camera, Laurie Moyer
11. Thank You to the Montessori school board-Rev. Christopher McLaren

#### Hymn: Come My Way

#### Rectors Address- Change and Growth in Thriving: Rev Christopher McLaren

Fr. Christopher going on Sabbatical for 4 months starting in late May 2020 and sends his deep regards and appreciation for this congregation. He is planning to come back.

Deacon David, Mother Sylvia and will be at the helm along with leaders & staff while he is away.

12. Stewardship, Finance & Budget- Miranda Eastham, Treasurer
13. There's a small amendment in that Ken Reese is the Treasurer for the School. He is also now the assistant to the Treasurer. The written report is on pages 7&9 of the Report. Discussed the year end finances for 2019. Note that we didn't draw from the annual fund. 2020 is calling for a possible small surplus if we meet our pledging goal of \$450k, but we will need to make a draw from the Net asset Fund to make ends meet. The school ended with a large surplus for 2019 and were able to help the church with outreach in 2020. In 2020 the school is also planning for a small surplus.

### Featured Ministries

14. Montessori School Report & Thank You to outgoing School Board (Bill Moye & Kita Harnet)- Denise Talamante, Director, Trisha Morton, Assistant director. It's been 7 years the school has been open, and they are growing & thriving. Enrollment is increasing, and they are starting to contribute funds towards the operating budget for the church.
15. Testimonial from Amber Anderson-Amber Anderson & her wife have 3 kids enrolled in the school and gave a beautiful testimonial about St Marks and the school and their family.
16. Testimonial "Thriving as a Family at St. Marks"- Sarah Camp gave an emotional testimonial to their family quietly thriving at St. Marks.
17. Usher/ Greeters Ministry- Rev. Christopher McLaren  
We are re-imagining these Ministries and a big Thank You to Joanne Swinson who is retiring as Head Usher. Tom & Audrey Minard are also retiring from being Ushers. Thank You to the folks who have headed up Celebrities, Karen McDaniel & Jo Anne Swinson. Thank You to Diane Reece a special thanks for all the ministry help she has given & all the parties she has helped plan. Special Thanks to Sherry Reeder for Her hospitality and leadership development. starting the coffee ministry and who has now passed that on to Kim Harlow.

### Election Results 1<sup>st</sup> (and only) Ballot

Election Results: Meredith Sweeney - New Vestry member are: Laurel Cabral, Aric Elsenheimer, and Melanie Peterson Delegate to Convention is Sherry Reeder.

### Coming Attractions

16. Marti Gras! Talia McLaren sends an official invitation to Mardi Gras.
17. Lenten activities announcement- Mother Sylvia
  - i. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Eucharist & Juntos
18. Rev. Christopher McLaren: Newcomer class starts in February  
Bishop Hunn will be here in May.

### Hymn: Thy Strong Word

*Thank You Kathy McDonald- Vargo for the music, and to Paula for helping with the kids.- Rev. Christopher McLaren*

### Adjournment of the annual meeting- Meredith Sweeney

### Blessing: Rev Father Bob Batton

## Attachment 2: What Happened at St. Mark's in 2020

- Mother Sylvia's Celebration of New Ministry
- Epiphany House Blessings
- Usher/Greeter Training
- Anglican Rosery Class
- Grief & Support Group
- History of the Anglican/Episcopal Church Class
- Centering Prayer Class
- Mary Oliver Class
- Mardi Gras Event
- Pastoral Emergency Phone went into effect (February)
- Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- COVID-19 forced us to temporarily stop in-person worship/Virtual Worship started (mid-March)
- Conversation & Outreach Tree created
- Outdoor Lending Library started at St. Mark's (outside the west entrance)
- Lenten Community Project: Reflecting Resurrection
- Holy Week was entirely virtual via Zoom and Facebook
- Online Laurus Book Study
- A Visit with Mary Oliver Online Class
- Congregational Relief Fund was created to help parishioners facing hardships from COVID-19
- Bishop Hunn makes Virtual Visitation to St. Mark's
- Masks were donated and placed on the Lending Library Table outside to allow parishioners to pick them up if they wanted or needed one
- Pause & Pray (weekday, 5-min prayer on Facebook Live) began (May)
- Online Tuesday Rosary Group began (May)
- New Saint Mark's website went online (May)
- Weekly Parent Group via Zoom established (July)
- All-Parish survey was sent (June)
- Blessing of High School graduates
- Dealing with Anxiety through Humor Class offered
- Virtual Summer of Conversation Trainings
- Montessori School started back up in July
- Inquirers' Class went virtual
- Virtual Coffee Hour through Zoom established (pre- and post-Sunday Liturgy) in August
- Reservation System created in July
- Wednesday Evening Prayer & Meditation in the Nave begins (in-person, socially distanced services) – July
- Online Book Group: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry
- Visit with St. Mark's Icon's Weekly Video Series put forth
- Racial Discussions reestablished at St. Mark's (June)
- Back to School Blessings – Virtual and a Drive-Thru event in East Parking Lot (August)
- In-Person Host Training conducted online
- Midweek Thursday Holy Eucharist opened to limited in-person registrations and was also virtual in September
- Sunday Evening Holy Eucharist in the Fish Garden started in September
- Summer of Conversation stayed virtual by meeting in Zoom Room after Sunday worship
- Blessing of the Wheels was done all socially distanced in the east parking lot at St. Mark's

- Anti-Racist Group formed and opened to parish in September – monthly virtual group
- Bad winds took out several trees at St. Mark's
- Ed Lazar's legacy gift of \$15,000 brought our capital reserve to the target of \$25,000
- Blessing of the Pets – Virtual and In-Person
- Cosmos Mural workshops – stalled
- Hired new Business Manager, Bruce Roach
- St. Martin's HopeWorks Ministry started back up (since temporarily ceasing in April) in November
- New Online Member Directory published (October)
- Virtual Ofrenda for the Nave was created for All Saints' Day
- Stewardship Giving, Growing, Grateful Celebration Sunday event – drive-thru Estimate of Giving/Pledge card turn in event
- Thanksgiving Evening Prayer & Fellowship on Zoom offered
- All In-Person worship paused again (Mid-November)
- Storytelling workshop offered
- Saint Nicholas Festival (Virtual) was held
- Virtual Caroling Parties offered
- Virtual Christmas Pageant created and played during Christmas Eve Liturgy
- Christmas Eve - Baskets of consecrated bread and wine, along with other goodies were distributed to all parishioners (that we were able to reach) to use along with the Christmas Eve liturgy held virtually
- Rosary & Remembrance on the Winter Solstice was held virtually
- Winter clothing needs for St. Martin's HopeWorks were gathered by St. Mark's parishioners

