

St. Mark's + Capitol Hill

Annual Meeting & Report to the Parish

February 29, 2020 - February 28, 2021

March 14, 2021

Volume 12

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CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY AND DIOCESAN DELEGATE

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

Warden: Linell Grundman for Senior Warden
Jim Pittman for Junior Warden (3rd year; see Bylaws Article IV, par.404A)

Vestry: three seats, each for a term of three years
Chris Berendes, Jeb Ory, David Wellman

Vestry: one seat, for a term of two years
Edna Boone

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

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions

Nominating Committee Christina Herman, *Chair*
Ryan Baugh, SW, Amber MacDonald, Brandon Knight*, Members of the Vestry*
Josie Jordan, Raiford Gaffney, *Members of the Parish*
The Rev. Michele H. Morgan *ex officio*

Note from the Archives and Parish History Committee:

This Annual Report is quite different from those of the past 11 years. Along with the 2021 report, these will document for future generations how, together, the people of St Mark's managed a pandemic.

December, 2019, reports emerged of a new virus in China that was unusually virulent.
By mid-January 2020, Wuhan Province, believed to be the site of origin, went into complete lock-down in an effort to stop the spread. However, it was too late. Travelers from China to Europe had already initiated its spread and within 2 months, the first cases were reported in the US.

March 11, 2020,the DCD announced a pandemic. An early case in Washington, DC was the rector of Christ Church+Georgetown. There were so many cases across the country, the spread so rapid and death so frequent that the District, Maryland, and Virginia began lock-downs: business and schools closed and Bishop Budde ordered the closing of all diocesan churches. Other denominations did the same.

Within days, people were working from home, schools had adjusted to using internet classes and, like many other churches, St. Mark's broadcast services via the internet. We were expected to wear masks and 'socially distance' by staying 6' apart. Over the next 12 months, the ingenuity and commitment of parishioners and staff expanded our online offerings to study groups, classes, Sunday school, coffee hour and Sermon Seminar – and to marvelous and creative online participation by our amazing Director of Music and the fabulous choir on Sunday mornings.

Our 2020 Annual Meeting was delayed until July 12 when a relatively secure method of holding elections was created. As of this annual meeting, the virus still controls our lives. While vaccines have been discovered, their distribution has been problematic. Even where it has been widely distributed, we do not know when our lives will return to at least some semblance of normal—whatever that may be.

The leadership, therefore, has been asked to use their report to respond to these questions as they pertain to their area:

What problems did you encounter?
What decisions did you need to make to adjust?
What options were rejected?
What do we need to remember?
Who was involved in getting the work done?
What are your personal reflections on this experience?

As of Sunday, March 7, 2021, more than 524,000 Americans have died from Covid-19 and 2.5M world-wide. In the US, we have had 29M cases. Thus far, 17.3% of US adults have had at least one dose of a vaccine with 87.9M doses administered (Johns Hopkins Public Health report).

As this report goes to press, several states have loosened restrictions re: mask-wearing and social distancing and/or lifted limits on the number in restaurants, theatres, etc. Whether the timing proves safe is yet to be seen.

We are most fortunate that we have not lost any parishioners to COVID-19.

We pray that may still be the case at the time of the Annual Report in 2022.

2021 Annual Meeting Agenda

Zoom room opens at 11:30 am

12:00 **Opening Prayer** — The Rev. Cindy Dopp, Deacon

Call to Order — The Rev. Michele Morgan, Rector

12:05 Announcement of Quorum — Kim Bayliss, Register

12:08 Approve Minutes of the 2021 Meeting
Acknowledgement of Annual Report

12:10 **State of the Parish**

Outreach	Steve Dalzell, Chair
12:14 Christian Education	Greg Niblett, Co-Director
12:17 Treasurer	John Edwards, Treasurer
12:22 Rector	Rev. Morgan
12:32 Senior Warden	Ryan Baugh

12:42 **Elections** — Christina Herman**,** Nominating Committee Chair

Senior Warden
- Nominations from the Floor
- Remarks from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Junior Warden
- Nominations from the Floor
- Remarks from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Vestry 3 year term
- Nominations from the Floor
- Remarks from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Vestry 2 year term
- Nominations from the Floor
- Remarks from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

Diocesan Delegation
- Nominations from the Floor
- Remarks from Candidates
- Call for the vote (or) motion

1:15 **Results of the Balloting**

1:20 **Final Acknowledgments** — Michele Morgan

Blessing and Closing — The Rev. Patricia Catalano

Adjournment

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

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

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

Article III The Vestry

301. Vestry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

404. Tenure and Vacancies

A. Wardens. Except as provided in paragraph D.1, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden will hold office for a 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 any Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate before the end of the Member's or Lay Delegate's three- year term, the Vestry may appoint a member of the Parish to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, when the members of the Parish will elect a member or Lay Delegate to fill the vacancy. The newly elected Member of the Vestry or Lay Delegate may hold office only for the remainder of the term to which he or she succeeds.

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

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

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

B. Alternate Delegates. At the first Vestry meeting after the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will elect one or more Alternate Lay Delegates to ***the Regional Assembly***[1] 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 Diocese of Washington. Their duties include:

1. act as judges at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, including deciding any issue concerning the inclusion or omission of any person on the list of qualified voters,

2. manage, control, and direct, with power to sell, alienate, encumber, or transfer all property of the Parish as provided in section 502;

3. Elect a Rector, Assisting Clergy, Register, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers, Alternate Lay Delegates, and other officers that the Vestry needs.

4. provide necessary books and records for the Register, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers.

5. file before March 1 of each year with the District of Columbia Government a report showing the purposes for which the tax exempt property of the Parish was used during the preceding year;

6. make rules and regulations for the government and support of the Parish;

7. exercise the powers of a corporation and body politic as prescribed by the Maryland Vestry Act of 1798, as in effect in the District of Columbia, and the laws of the District of Columbia; and

8. sue and be sued on matters involving the Parish.

504. Duties of the Register The Register shall:

1. act as a secretary to the Vestry and at the Annual or special parish meetings; and

2. generally act and perform by the provisions of the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal church and the Diocese of Washington relating to clerks and secretaries of Vestries and by the laws of the District of Columbia.

505. Duties of the Treasurer

A. Treasurer. The Treasurer will:

1. act under the supervision of the Vestry;

2. except as otherwise directed by the Vestry, have charge and custody of all the monies and valuables of the Parish;

3. be responsible for the keeping of accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and financial transactions of the Parish; and

4. in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as the Vestry may assign to the Treasurer.

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

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

Article VI Rector

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

Article VII Amendments

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

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

Adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting, April 3, 1964

Amended at the Annual Parish meetings of:
April 16, 1971[1] 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)

[1]No minutes of the Annual Meetings of 1971-88 survive to identify the contents of these amendments

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING
July 12, 2020
DRAFT – for approval at the 2021 Annual Meeting

To comply with COVID-19 safety protocols, the Annual Meeting was held virtually via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order: The Rector, Michele Morgan, presided at the meeting and offered the opening prayer.

Quorum: The Register announced that a quorum (100 required) was present with 174 devices registered as attending.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.

Nomination of candidates for Vestry: Retiring Vestry Member Jim Brooks, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following candidates for Vestry and Diocesan Delegate.

For Vestry: Linnell Grundman and Fritz Henn

For Diocesan Delegate: Sandy Padgett

Call for nominations from the floor: Brent Bickley was nominated for Vestry.

Vestry member, Tracy Councill, read candidate statements due to technical difficulties in playing candidates' pre-recorded remarks.

With no competition for positions, no ballots were cast. Vestry members and the Diocesan Delegate were elected by acclamation.

Outreach Board Report: Steve Dalzell, Outreach Board Chair, highlighted the Board's activity in the last two years. St. Mark's efforts have focused on organizations like Everyone Home DC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry, the Bishop Walker School, and the renewed contact with Washington Interfaith Network. During the pandemic the Outreach Board has priorities donations to partners with the greatest immediate payoff in the current situation.

Senior Warden's Report: Ryan Baugh addressed the meeting. Ryan related some of the challenging decisions and efforts to cope with the sudden pandemic, highlighted the importance of our community especially in these challenging times, and invited us to continue engaging, worshiping, and sharing fellowship with St. Mark's.

Rector's Report: The Rector acknowledged the contributions of outgoing Vestry members and Officers. She thanked outgoing Vestry members Alix Pereira, Jim Brooks, and Tracy Councill for their extended service due to the postponement of the Annual Meeting and acknowledged the many years of legal counsel provided by Rosemary Harold.

The closing Prayer was offered by the Rector, Michele Morgan.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Bayliss
Register

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
February 25,2018	No record	Mary Anderson Cooper
March 24, 2019	140	Mary Anderson Cooper
July 12, 2020 (Virtual)	174	Kim Bayliss

Due to the COVID-19 shut-down, not all groups reported. For information about a group which does not report in this document, please see Annual Report of March, 2020.

VESTRY REPORTS

SENIOR WARDEN *Ryan Baugh*

We have not gathered for worship physically together in our building since last March. 'Communal worship' has consisted of streaming online video of our celebrant and preacher, our music director playing organ or piano, and a soloist from the choir also serving as response reader on behalf of the congregation. A dedicated team of volunteers has assisted in the filming and sharing of our services online.

Coffee Hour has shifted from sharing coffee and treats together in Baxter Hall with accidental but welcome bumping-into and catch-ups with someone you haven't spoken to in a few weeks but had been thinking about, amidst the hubbub of children running around and with the question hanging in the air of whether there was still coffee left if you should want that second or third cup. It has become a check-in about life for those who can enjoy a few extra minutes of screen time over Zoom after all the Zooms of the previous week.

This has been a hard year for each of us and for our community. One way we feel the touch of the Divine, through physical fellowship in community and the hugs and presence of others, has been largely absent. We have missed the somatic experience of worship together in one place, the routines of walking into the nave and taking our seats, of sitting up attentively and saying the responses, of gathering in a circle to take the bread and wine.

Despite these changes and challenges, St. Mark's has remained a strong and enduring community. We continue to do our best to support our members. We do our best to foster a community where leaders step forward to ensure we adapt and offer meaningful opportunities for worship, fellowship, and outreach in changing circumstances. Though the methods and mediums of our interactions have changed, our work continues. We still express and explore our faith together, strive to reach out to one another to hold each other up, and continue to do what we must to keep each other safe in this pandemic. I give heartfelt thanks to every one of

our staff and volunteers who have given of themselves to help us rise to the needs of this moment.

With the engagement and efforts of many, our ministry has continued in new forms. We continue on through these trying times. I encourage you to read the reports that make up this Annual Report. Maybe there is something that we have been up to over the last year that you are not yet aware of. Maybe it offers you a piece of what you are seeking. Find a way to plug in to what is happening, into the energy of this community, and share your light and warmth with us. Help us keep and strengthen this as a congregation that supports, sustains, and encourages us to grow. Help us to be a light on the Hill.

JUNIOR WARDEN *Jim Pittman*

As the effects of the pandemic found its way into our church, changes in our simplistic social and spiritual lives became more measured for survival. We quickly reduced any activity within the church and on the grounds to reduce viral transmission amongst the congregation and community. In the almost-zero energy shutdown of the church, all kitchen appliances were turned off and cleaned. The HVAC units and lights were set to minimize runtime. Several projects around the nave were planned and completed without the services being held.

Through the past year of pandemonium, several people gave of their time and talents to assist with the monitoring of the church services, building and grounds: Maureen Shea for helping in the kitchen and office area, Kenn Allen for helping with the building oversite and management, Kathryn Powers for continued works in the garden, Charlie Rupp for the IT work streaming the show, and David Deutsch, Jim Brooks,Tracy Councill for their efforts with the camera work on Sunday service. I will be forever thankful for ya'lls help!

MAJOR WORK THIS PAST YEAR

Brief descriptions of the work completed, all below budget:

· Restoration to the Wardens' Emeritus tower (west vestibule) including removal of the original AC condenser units (given by Pres. & Mrs. Johnson) and installation of lights to make stained glass windows visible
· Refinishing the nave floor.
· Updating the HVAC system to better meet CDC/COVID recommendations.
· Repair and Installation of new batteries in the UPS emergency lighting system.
· Troubleshooting and maintenance plan for water in the electrical room.
· Repair of the irrigation system associated with the increased water penetration through the west wall.
· Restoration of flooring and mold remediation in classrooms along the west wall.
· Completion of design, construction, and installation of new track racks in the nave.
· Curtain removal and cleaning in the chapel.
· Painting of several basement rooms, lobby and stairway area.

MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE VESTRY MARCH 2020-JANUARY 2021 Key: RA: Rector's Action SWA: Senior Warden Action VA: Vestry Action Date of action is listed by month-year (03-13=March 2013)	
VA02-20	Approved: Youth and Family Ministries application for a stock sale
VA02-20	Authorized:rector to form a working group to plan the parish retreat
VA02-20	Approved a fundraising lunch: April 5 to benefit the h.s. service trip
VA02-20	Approved: appointment of David Wellman as Acting Chair of the Endowment Board.
VA03-20	Approved the postponement of the Annual Meeting and continuation of the Vestry class of 2020
VA06-20	Approved the scheduling of the 2020 Annual Meeting for July 12
VA07-20	Adopted the financial statements for Dec.31, 2019 and 2018 along with the independent auditor's report
VA08-20	Approved the contract and addendum between St. Mark's Church and the District Montessori School for the 20-21 school year.
VA09-20	Approved the "Basic Financial Operations Resolution with appendices
VA09-20	Approved the appointment of Mary Thuell as Vestry Counsel
VA09-20	Approved St. Mark's support for legislation to establish a National Historic Park honoring the work of Julius Rosenwald
VA11-20	Authorized the Diocesan Delegation to submit a resolution to the upcoming convention to revise anti-Semitic language in Lectionary readings
VA11-20	Approved support to the diocese for admission to the Holy Order for Ordination to the priesthood for Caitlin Frazier.
VA12-20	Approved rejoining the Washington Interfaith Network for 2021
VA01-21	Approved the disbursement of the operating funds surplus to pay off the Extended Vision line of credit
VA01-21	Authorized the Treasurer and Senior Warden to prepare and execute an application for a second round of loans under the Paycheck Protection program
VA01-21	Approved the appointment of Karen Wiedemann and Malissa Zimmerman to the Endowment Board

TREASURER'S REPORT *John Edwards,* Chair; *Linnell Grundman,* Vestry Liaison

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that, despite the daunting challenges facing us from the pandemic, parish finances ended 2020 in very good condition and are positioned for continued sustainable operations and growth in our community.

Although the drastic reduction in use of our building and economic downturn in the spring led us to forecast a potentially tight year, we experienced an unanticipated bounce back throughout the last two quarters of the year, stemming from a number of areas. First and foremost, our parishioners have continued to show the great value we place on our community, our mission and our aspirations, with one manifestation of that being continuing the pace of our pledge income and weekly plate contributions throughout the year.

To forestall any potential drop in resources, we successfully worked with our partners at National Capital Bank to secure a PPP loan which covered two-months of our payroll, utilities and mortgage interest, including payroll costs of our Yoga and Dance Studios. At the same time, the shutdown of our in-person gathering, for better or worse, allowed us to tighten our belts significantly, resulting in a substantial reduction in our expenses. Principal among these was deferring the call of a new assistant rector although the Vestry supported a policy of fully funding all other staff compensation as well as our full outreach budget.

The one event that perhaps had the most significant effect on our financial health and moving forward was the extraordinary gift from the estate of Joya Cox, celebrating Joya's long relationship with St. Mark's. This $1.1 million bequest allowed us to pay off our entire mortgage and a significant portion of our Extended Vision line of credit, which also eliminated several months of mortgage interest expenses in the 2020 budget. Perhaps more significantly, it has allowed us greater freedom to live into our aspirations as a parish in the future to an extent we would not otherwise be able to do.

As a result, we ended 2020 in a much better financial position than we anticipated, with a budget surplus of approximately $239,000. In combination with our very strong 2021 Canvass, surpassing our initial goal, this has allowed us the confidence to adopt an essentially balanced budget for 2021. This includes full funding for calling an assistant rector and significant increases in our outreach budget and diocesan pledge. The budget also includes salary increases for Michele, Jeff and Caleb to bring their compensation levels in line with the diocesan guidelines for their positions and experience. Our 2020 surplus has also allowed us to pay off the remaining Extended Vision Line of Credit which both frees our Endowment from remaining collateral on the retired debt as well as allowing all outstanding Extended Vision pledge payments (approximately $83,000) to be dedicated to outreach efforts as originally intended as part of the capital campaign. The Finance Committee and Vestry will be considering additional uses for our 2020 surplus over the coming months.

In closing, my thanks go to the Finance Committee members for their dedicated work and wise counsel, as well as to the Vestry and our rector, Michele, for their ongoing direction and support, and especially for the steady leadership of our senior warden, Ryan, over the course of a very challenging year.

2020 Operating Budget Report

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Total Pledge	$ 890,000	$ 905,692	$ 902,071
Pledges	$ 885,450	$ 919,248	$ 900,751
Other Income	$ 174,802	$ 130,222	$ 113,652
Bequest	$ -	$ 983,745	$ -
Payroll Protection Program	$ -	$ 87,026	$ -
Satellite Organizations	$ 9,600	$ 6,515	$ 6,300
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	**$ 1,069,852**	**$ 2,126,756**	**$ 1,020,703**
Payroll and Related	$ 580,493	$ 513,838	$ 619,206
Parochial Ministry	$ 45,110	$ 21,182	$ 34,902
Ministry Outside	$ 95,240	$ 91,488	$ 110,848
Administration	$ 52,025	$ 50,306	$ 51,866
Property	$ 294,560	$ 216,587	$ 189,750
Mortgage Pay-Off	$ -	$ 983,745	$ -
Reserve Allocations	$ 10,750	$ 10,319	$ 10,750
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	**$ 1,078,178**	**$ 1,887,465**	**$ 1,017,322**
Operating Budget Surplus / (Deficit)	**$ (8,326)**	**$ 239,291**	**$ 3,381**

CUMULATIVE SURPLUS / DEFICIT (END OF YEAR)		
Cummulative Operating Surplus / (Deficit)**	***	$ 347,764
Cummulative Vestry-Restricted Reserve Surplus / (Deficit)		$ 102,221

** *Does not include Donor-Restricted Accounts or Vestry-Restricted Reserves*

*** *2020: $7282 transferred from operating surplus to Extended Vision*

MEMBERSHIP							
Year	**Pledge units**	**Pledges/ Adults**	**Children/ pledging Members[1]**	**Visitors** (incl. children)	**Ave. Sunday attendance**	**Baptized Members[2]**	**Communicants/ 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)
2018	331	477	123	155	284	+22/-6=651	651(371A/280Y)
2019	272	520	342	161	284	+26/-15=662	662(520A/142Y)
2020[8]	285	414	156	16	291	+20/-21+=570	570(414A+156Y)

[1] Age 18/younger

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

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

[4] Included as a baseline

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

[6]Adults/Youth

[7]The drop in numbers is the result of a 'clean-up' of the parish records done periodically by clergy.

[8]Reflects shut down of regular services re: COVID-19 pandemic

Liturgical Services								
Year	**Sunday**	**Weekday** Thurs.	**Private Eucharist**	**Marriages**	**Burials**	**Baptisms**[9]	**Morning Prayer**[10]	**Compline**[11]
2009	104	21	16	4	2			
2010	144[8]	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			
2018	162	63	8	2	7	20		
2019	153	57	6	3	8	n/a		
2020	92	12	3	3	2	3	1600	300

[8]Reflects the establishment of a 3rd service

[9]Statistics added in 2018

[10]Service added during shut-down re: Covid-19 (zoom); # of services not available; number reflects total attendance

[11]Service added during shut-down re: Covid-19 (zoom); # of services not available; number reflects total attendance

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP *Thia Hamilton,* Chair; *Andrew Stafford,* Vestry
Website Team members: Pamela Blumgart, Chris Berendes
The primary work of this group involves the care and maintenance of the stmarks.net website.

On a weekly basis, members of the team rotate responsibility for adding and updating events and announcements as communicated in the weekly service bulletins, announcements, the e-Gospel and the daily emails.

The Communications Working Group (CWG) is on-call throughout the year for assistance in adding or changing website information as events arise, leadership changes, and programs evolve. This work has been especially active during the time of the pandemic when the majority of business is being done virtually.

ENDOWMENT *Kathryn Powers,* Chair; *David Wellman,* Co-Chair (Architect);Karen Wiedemann (Co-Chair), Michael Summey (Treasurer), Kim Bayliss, Malissa Zimmerman

The Endowment was created by the Vestry in 2002. This allows parishioners to contribute to the long-term needs of the Church through donations to several funds. Please see the list of funds and their descriptions below. These funds support projects within specific areas of church life including its buildings and grounds. The Endowment does not pay routine expenses or supplement the operating budget, which is supported primarily by annual pledges.

A five-member board, approved by the Vestry, manages the Endowment. Their responsibilities include establishing individual Endowment Funds, accepting gifts, bequests and donations, investing the funds in a diverse and balanced portfolio in order to achieve a stable growth and distributing the fund's earnings consistent with the Endowment and the individual funds' charters.

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. During the year 2020 the fund had an annual return of 21.4%.

Each year the portion of each fund available for distributions ("expendable funds") is calculated based on 5% of the 3-year rolling average of the funds valuation (as of December 31 of each year). If these expendable funds are not distributed in a given calendar year, they will accrue and are available for distribution in subsequent years. This method of disbursement computation is the most commonly used method in the non-profit world.

In 2019 the Vestry requested and the Endowment Committee approved the use of a portion of St. Mark's Endowment Vanguard Funds as collateral for a $600,000 Line of Credit. This Line of Credit was needed to bridge between expenses St. Mark's incurred as part of our Vision 2020 renovations and the receipt of pledged funds from parishioners. This resulted in encumbering approximately $750,000 of the Endowment's investments. While pledged the funds could not be disbursed but they continue to earn interest and continued to accrue expendable funds. In January 2021 St. Mark's was able to pay off all loans associated with the Line of Credit and the Endowment Funds are no longer encumbered.

Description of Funds and 2020 Disbursements and Activities

Building Preservation Fund: Set up in 1998 from sale of the rectory, this fund provides for improvements to church facilities. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

Hoitsma Fund: Set up in 1981 through a gift from the Hoitsma family, this fund provides for long-term building improvements not covered by the operating budget. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

General Fund: This fund receives general bequests and donations to support non-building related projects that further the overall mission of the church. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

Verna Dozier Fund: Initially established 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. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

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. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

Arts Fund: This fund was set up in 2002 to receive bequests and donations to benefit the arts at St. Mark's. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

Holtkamp Organ Fund: Set up in 1998, this fund provides for the capital needs of the Holtkamp Organ. The Music Director requests disbursements. There was no activity in this fund in 2020.

The Endowment did not fund a Building Survey during 2020 as outlined in the Endowment charter.

The Endowment Board has a new email address: Endowment@StMarks.net. If you have questions about any of the Endowment Funds, or you would like to make a contribution, please contact us at this address or contact one of the Board Members.

St. Mark's Endowment Funds

2/23/21

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2020

2020 Budget: Available to Spend at 5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance

	Total	1 Craighill Dance	2 Hoitsma Capital Improvement	3 Arts	4 Dozier Education	5 Holtkamp Organ Maintenance	6 General	7 Building Preservation	8 Dozier LOC	9 Craighill LOC
Current Fund Value **12/31/2020**	**1,193,709**	**11,927**	**249,523**	**93,819**	**6,768**	**57,758**	**189,753**	**277,757**	**72,318**	**234,086**
Beginning Fund Value **12/31/2019**	**983,078**	9,822	205,494	77,265	5,574	47,567	156,271	228,747	59,557	192,781
YTD Change in Account Balance since December 31, 2019	**210,631** **21.4%**	2,105 21.4%	44,029 21.4%	16,554 21.4%	1,194 21.4%	10,191 21.4%	33,482 21.4%	49,010 21.4%	12,761 21.4%	41,305 21.4%
New donations/loan repayments during 2020	-									
Disbursements during 2020	-									
	-									
	-									
3-Year Rolling Average Balance as of January 1, 2020 (Average of preceding 12 quarters)	**913,099**	134,994	185,090	67,477	45,616	41,541	136,308	241,795	14,227	46,052
2020 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2020 (5% of 3-Year Rolling Average Balance)	**45,655**	6,750	9,255	3,374	2,281	2,077	6,815	12,090	711	2,303
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2009	**3,113**			3,113						
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2010	**3,022**			2,054		968				
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2011	**2,948**			1,985		963				
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2012	**3,134**			2,104		1,030				
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2013	**3,539**			2,394		1,145				
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2014	**3,933**			2,665		1,268				
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2015	**5,902**		706	2,797		1,422	977			
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2016	**32,858**	7,552		2,808	1,868	1,552	6,791	12,287		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2017	**33,921**	7,762		2,733	2,557	1,645	6,214	13,010		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2018	**40,921**	8,055	7,880	2,857	2,702	1,759	6,069	11,599		
PLUS: Funds unused in prior years - 2019	**43,199**	8,463	8,587	3,082	2,841	1,897	6,251	12,077	-	-
Subtotal	**222,145**	**38,581**	**26,427**	**31,966**	**12,249**	**15,726**	**33,118**	**61,063**	**711**	**2,303**
YTD Spent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 2020 Budget: Funds Available to Spend in 2020	**222,145**	38,581	26,427	31,966	12,249	15,726	33,118	61,063	711	2,303

NOTES:

COLLATERAL FOR LINE OF CREDIT

All funds are currently committed to the line of credit with the exception of the ending balances in the Craighill Dance ($11,927) and Dozier Education ($6,768) funds.
Funds 1 and 9 (Craighill) and funds 4 and 8 (Dozier) will be reconstituted upon retirement of the line of credit.

RACE AND RECONCILIATION *Inactive*

MEMBERSHIP *Mary Anderson Cooper,* Convener*; Amber MacDonald, Brent Bickley, Andrew Stafford,* Vestry Reps; Fritz Henn, Jim Brooks, Jen Holland, Karen Wiedemann, Peter Nye, Peter Hawley, *Members*
The primary functions of the Membership Committee are the welcoming of newcomers, helping them integrate into the parish, and participation in the Barracks Row event each September.

Because of the limitations imposed by COVID-19, we could not be involved in Barracks Row 2020, nor were there newcomers to welcome in person. Newcomers were welcomed during the livestreaming service and the information form available through our Facebook connection Consequently, the Membership Committee was in hiatus for most of the year and looks forward to resuming activities later in 2021.

STEWARDSHIP *Rob Hall & Jackie Boddie, Co-Chairs*

Thanks to so many of you who made extraordinary capital campaign gifts to allow us to sustain the life our dear building well into this century and beyond. As many of you know, our dear late sister, Joya Cox, left a very generous legacy gift to St. Mark's that allowed Michele and the Vestry to use those funds to pay off our capital campaign debt.

The only outstanding commitment we have as a parish is our promised gift to the broader world outside of our walls. We want to make a gift in the range of $75,000 to $100,000. With the expected income from the last tranche of payments on remaining capital campaign gifts and a handful of other generous gifts, we can reach our goal. Please join us in making this happen. Please reach out to either Jackie Boddie or Rob Hall with any questions.

CANVASS *Alix Pereira, Chair*

Like everything else this year, the canvas for 2021 was different from any other we've had. Yet, as we have all year, St. Mark's stepped up to the challenge. In fact, our shift to a streamlined canvas in recent years to rely on centralized data sources paid dividends. We were well prepared to execute a virtual canvas. We leveraged data contained in Realm and thanks to Patricia Braley's efforts, we used that tool to identify and organize our parishioners into different categories. This data was used to send emails to remind and request pledges.

Prayerfully and informed by the Finance Committee, we targeted to raise $890,000 in pledges, the same amount targeted in 2020 and 2019. As of this update, our efforts and your generosity returned over $$943,686.71 in pledges. By comparison, you pledged just over $909,000 for 2020. While the increase in total pledges is a blessing we don't take for granted, the 2021 pledge total is sourced from 286 pledges as compared to the 316 pledging units for 2020. This represents a greater than 9% decrease in total pledging units. In 2021 we look to further expand our use of a centralized data source and leverage more one-one personal contacts during the pledge season.

LEGACY LIONS *Kenn Allen,* Coordinator

We launched the Legacy Lions in 2017 as our planned giving program to recognize those parishioners who have made commitments to St Mark’s in their estate planning. Since 2015, we have received eleven legacy gifts totaling $1,310,054. These gifts have enabled us to replace the Lexan covering on the nave windows with tempered glass, develop the 3rd Street garden and install permanent backing on the cherry tree panels in Baxter Hall. In 2020, a

major gift of $1.1 million from the estate of Joya Cox enabled us to pay off our mortgage and line of credit, both related to our exterior restoration. For a current list of Legacy Lions, please see page 51.

DIOCESIAN DELEGATION *Peter Nye, Caitlin Frazier, Sandy Padgett,* Lay Delegates; *The Rev. Michele Morgan The Rev. Patricia Catalano, and The Rev. Cindy Dopp, Clerical Delegates*

January 30, 2021, our delegation to the Diocese of Washington attended the 126th annual convention, held via Zoom. There was a general consensus among the organizers and attendees that the convention ran smoothly, enabling the Diocese to complete its business despite an inability to meet in person due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Bishop Mariann's Address, "Called to Hope," she began by observing that in the midst of the crises and changes of 2020, there is opportunity; the majority of congregations have come through 2020 remarkably well. In reviewing the Strategic Plan's three objectives, she indicated that the Diocese has used the "7 Vital Signs for Parish Health" assessment and encouraged congregations to do their own informal assessment. The Diocese will continue to pursue the 'Faith and Leadership Objective through the School for Christian Faith and Leadership'. The Diocese's 'Equity and Justice Objective' will focus on uncovering, understanding, reckoning with, and acting to dismantle racism.

The evening prior to Convention, the Diocese held a "candid conversation" on the history of race with Bishop Eugene Sutton, Diocese of Maryland, Bishop Mariann, and representatives of the Diocese's Reparations Task Force. Bishop Sutton described the process which led the Diocese of Maryland to pass a resolution in September 2020 approving the creation of a $1 million seed fund for reparations and racial reconciliation work.

Four resolutions were presented and approved:

Resolution One: Engaging in Immigration Detention Ministry, wherein the Diocese will explore local opportunities for ministries of healing justice and reconciliation with individuals and families harmed by the immigration detention system and will amplify and support the work of Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM).

Resolution Two: Active Advocacy for Racial Justice, wherein the Diocese will urge each parish and the Diocese to review its history in the context of advocacy, racial justice, and racial equity and to discern its calling to address racial justice and racial equity and to advocate for systemic change.

Resolution Three: Supporting Racial Justice Through Police Reform, wherein the Diocese will examine the role systemic racism plays in policing, leverage its regional organization to support and encourage congregations to work for meaningful reform of policing, and encourage mutually supportive relations between police and citizens.

Resolution Four: Addressing the Anti-Semitic Impact of Lectionary Readings for Holy Week (submitted by Rev. Michele Morgan, Josie Jordan, and Randy Marks), in which the Diocese will submit a resolution to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church directing the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music to recommend revisions to the Lectionary readings for Holy Week to remedy passages that use language that has been interpreted as anti-Semitic while maintaining the meaning and intent of the original Greek texts.

The convention also elected clergy and lay delegates to the Standing Committee. The 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church has been postponed from July 2021 to July 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

You can find more information and links to YouTube recordings at:
https://www.edow.org/about/diocesan-governance/convention.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES *Betsy Athey, Convener*

Rector: Cecilia Monahan
Senior Warden: Stewart Andrews,
Junior Warden: Fabric Committee
Seminarian: Louise Walsh
Youth & Family Ministries: *No report*

ELDERS *Betsy Athey, Bruce Sherman,*Conveners
No report

AD HOC COMMITTEE

REOPENING/REGATHERING COMMITTEE *Karen Wiedemann, Chair*
Members: *Kit Arrington,Mike Dillman, Linnell Grundman, Jo Ellen Hayden, Josie Jordan, John Anthony Meza, Joel Wilson.* Vestry: *Ryan Baugh, Senior Warden, Jim Pitman, Junior Warden; George Meng, Risk Management Advisor;* Staff: *James Rostron, Parish Administrator, Rev.Michele Morgan, Rector*

In August 2020, the Reopening and Regathering Committee was convened to develop plans and protocols for on-site work, third party uses of St. Mark's space (such as musical performances and use by outside groups) and worship services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We focused on four key areas for information gathering and analysis:

· The science and public health issues related to COVID-19

· Guidelines and restrictions issued by the DC government, the Centers for Disease Control and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

· Expected uses of St. Mark's facilities and any issues or constraints associated with their use

· Best practices of other organizations in responding to COVID-19 risks

Because of the urgency of keeping our staff safe and addressing existing commitments to outside groups, we prioritized the development of protocols for on-site work and third-party uses of space. That work was completed in the Fall of 2020. In January 2021, the committee put out a survey to gather additional information from the parish in connection with developing a plan for regathering for worship. We plan to report back to the parish on survey findings and a draft version of the reopening plan in the coming weeks.



REPORTS FROM THE PILLARS

WORSHIP *Doris Burton, Convener*

Stephanie Deutsch, *Treasurer;* Barbara Nelson, *Laying on of Hands*; David Deutsch, *Sound/Lights;* Josie Jordan, *Head Verger;* Michael Knipe, *11 am Acolytes;* Susan Ryerson (9 am) Doris Burton(11am), *Altar Guild Co-Sacristans;* Josie Jordan, *Ushers;* Joe Tarantolo (9 am), Michelle Strange (11), *Bread & Wine;* Karen Getman (9am), Raiford Gaffeny (11) *Chalice Bearers;* Ellen Spencer, *Readers Guild;* Michelle Rivard, *Meditation Center;* Chris Berendes & Elin Whitney-Smith, *Morning Prayer Coordinators; Compline Coordinator*

The Worship Committee met in January for the only time this year. Because all services were on zoom, there was little we could offer. Because the shut-down happened so quickly, with no warning, we were not able to plan. Not realizing how long it would last, we took little action until summer by when it became clear we would not be back to 'normal' for some time.
The committee never considered meeting in person. Trying to schedule meetings on zoom and plan liturgy on that platform was difficult enough that it was not pursued. In such times as the pandemic created, leaving liturgy planning to the clergy was the simplest way to operate.

We did hold a zoom meeting in September to consider what might be done for Advent/Christmas to enhance the service experience. The YFM director and rector decided to offer the pageant on zoom by having children record their portion at home and the videos linked. There was a very positive response to this year's pageant because of their planning.

We did not put out an 'all-call' for a greening chair. Because we would not be in the building, we agreed there was little point in decorating as usual. Instead, the chair recruited several volunteers to assist in a minimalist decorating. The committee agreed to having a very large tree set up in the courtyard: Susan Ryerson contributed the funds to purchase the tree which was 13'. Mike Townsend and David Trissell agreed to install and hang the lights but the seller offered to set up the tree. Unfortunately, it was not anchored well enough to survive wind gusts several days later. At that point, Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea intervened and found assistants at a nearby construction site who righted and anchored the tree. We did have positive feedback from neighbors who enjoyed having a lit tree in the neighborhood. January 9, Mike and David along with Kenn and Maureen, removed the lights, Mike and David cut the tree apart and hauled it to the Fairfax County dump in a truck loaned by Susan Sedgewick. In traditional greening fashion, it was a community project. Whether we do it again remains to be decided.

Maureen Shea, Josie Jordan, and Doris Burton installed the creche, with Maureen adding figures each week for changing views; we decorated the high altar with the historic frontal, poinsettias and candles and hung the wreaths on the exterior doors (with bows changing from Advent blue to Christmas gold).

Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Servers were on hiatus. The Readers' Guild continued contributing to the service. Ellen Spencer recruited volunteers who then recorded their reading and sent it to

Jeff who coordinated the 'insertion' into the live-stream services. In early 2021, Chris Berendes recruited groups (Outreach, Bible study, etc.) to do collective readings of the prayers. One verger attended each service to assist the presiding clergy.

If we had had a hint that the shutdown would be of such long duration, we might have used the time more wisely. Even discovering Zoom took a while and by then, the clergy and Director of Music had taken over planning. As chair, I have tried unsuccessfully to think of ways we could have contributed more effectively. Having viewed 4-5 other church services on Zoom, I found no one managed to find better ways to provide weekly liturgy.

Altar Guild With the shut-down, all AG duties disappeared. We did hold several zoom meetings, more as check-in than business. However, the silver and brass continued to be used and continued to tarnish (our last polishing was for Christmas,'19. Several members volunteered to go in on their own to polish and care for the used linens. We will also be trying out some new items when we regather.

Livestreaming *David Deutsch and Jeff Kempskie* Almost one year ago to the day, Sunday, March 15, services were cancelled due to COVID-19. After a serious glitch during our first live-streamed service on March 22, we began to live-stream a regular Eucharist with music at 10 a.m. using Facebook. That continues every Sunday with a few services pre-recorded. It was a remarkable achievement from a small group of people who had one week to figure out how to put on a church service as if it were a television production.Over time, many of the bugs and glitches have been overcome and the learning process for all continues and confidence grows.

We settled on using SwitcherStudio software, which is affordable and uses iPhones as cameras and an iPad to run the show and switch between cameras. The only piece of equipment we purchased was a gimbal, a steady cam, for our mobile camera operator. All iPhones, iPads, and tripods have been supplied by volunteers. Our one-year-old updated sound system thankfully made it rather easy to work with audio.
One of the most important features included in the app that allows St. Mark's to livestream is the ability to playback pre-recorded videos. That function has allowed many members of the congregation to participate in the service as readers, prayer leaders, vestry greeters, and singers. The clergy can read the Gospel passages and deliver sermons from elsewhere.After getting comfortable with the process, we were able to live stream some weddings and funerals for very small groups of people. Thus, all of St. Mark's–laity and clergy–have the ability to stay actively involved while keeping the number of persons in the Nave during the livestream to eight.

A brief note about the difference between Zooming and live-streaming: a Zoom meeting is a conference call with the participants being visible. Live-streaming is a television production: the viewer has the ability to see the selected output of cameras, videos, graphics, and sound. Those elements are selected by the video director.

Thanks to a herculean effort on part of the livestream team, the congregation was able to see all the Christmas services, some of which do not generally take place on a Sunday. Several were pre-recorded so work schedules had to be juggled, along with the continuity of decorations coordinated and time of day taken into account, i.e., we didn't want to pre-record the Christmas day service in the evening when the nave would be quite dark without the sun streaming through the stained-glass windows or vice-versa: the Festival Eucharist done at 10 pm needed to be done in the late afternoon.

Finally, the current decision is to continue livestreaming the Sunday morning service into the future even after we begin the process of allowing congregants into the nave. This will enable the homebound and former members now living elsewhere to remain connected.

The core livestream crew consists of:

Clergy: T*he Rev. Michele H. Morgan*
Music and Co-coordinating Producer: *Jeff Kempskie*
Video Director: *David Deutsch*
Technical Director: *Charlie Rupp*
Associate Director: *J.T. Spivy*
Mobile Camera (bi-weekly rotation): *Elizabeth Godec, Jim Brooks, Tracy Councill*
Verger: *Josie Jordan*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Greg Niblett, Susan Thompson, Co-Directors*

Zooming in a New Era Our program went forward with a robust schedule of classes and virtual gatherings held throughout the year with the use of the Zoom platform. Most notably, we maintained a virtual Sunday School program with the efforts of a dedicated team of teachers. The traditional Belongings Class, designed to engage newcomers and existing members, was moved to Spring of 2021. A Youth Confirmation class was not held during this period and the traditional Christian Education Weekend Retreat (January) was postponed until safe to gather in large numbers. Even with those changes, the parish can see from the results below that it was a full and productive year, especially given the circumstances of COVID. Through this experience, many valuable lessons were learned and it is likely that the use of Zoom or similar technologies will continue after we re-gather, allowing us to have more flexibility in our offerings in the future.

Program Category Summary Our program is divided into the following areas:

- Sunday School for preschool through grade 12
- Adult Classes or offerings consisting of the following:
  - Issues-Based Experiential Classes
  - Bible Studies (Adult Sunday school and through the week classes)
  - Meditation & Centering Prayer
  - Pop-up Classes (classes that spontaneously arise through the year after the publication of the CE Catalog)

Philosophy Our program seeks to offer pathways to investigate, reflect on, and deepen our spiritual lives and to aid in the search for meaning. Primarily, our program strives to be a "big umbrella" program that includes various courses and instructional methodologies that appeal to the different demographics and interests of the members of the parish. A key cornerstone of the Christian Education program is to create community. By taking classes, exploring the deeper issues of our lives, and engaging in discussions, parishioners have the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and form life-long relationships with other parishioners.

Sunday School We strive to create a Sunday school experience following a unified arc, providing both broad coverage of basic Christian lore and providing guidance so young people can develop and explore their value systems and spiritual growth. In both our "Catechesis" program, a Montessori approach to spiritual development for preschool through grade 5, and our middle and high school "Teen Text" curricula, we place emphasis on "asking questions"rather than providing answers – questions that elicit values based responses for age appropriate issues. During the reporting period, Catechesis II and III for grades 1-5 met virtually. Christy Rumpf provided online content for parents to use for the Catechesis I age group.

Catechesis I (ages 3 to Kindergarten) [access to materials via internet]
Theme: I am known and I am loved . . .

Focus: Love: Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Catechesis II (grades 1-3) [met by Zoom]
Theme: . . . so how will I act in the world?
Focus: Right and Wrong: Parable of the True Vine

Catechesis III (grades 4-5) [met by Zoom]
Theme: . . . as part of God's community
Focus: Responsibility: Maxims, 10 Commandments

Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12) [met via Zoom]
This was the second year that we continued using new curricula entitled "Teen Text". This is an issues-based experiential curriculum that follows the Episcopal liturgical calendar with scriptures used each week from the Book of Common Prayer. Different "Teen Text" curricula are tailored to middle school and high school ages. The curriculum is a product of The Educational Center, an independent organization rooted in the Episcopalian tradition. This is our second year using the curriculum and it has been well received.

Adult Classes: February 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021

The Foundations of a St. Mark's Sisterhood; An Intergenerational Discussion on Women's Spiritual Friendships: Over five Sundays in early 2020, almost two dozen women met to explore topics such as fun, intentional connection, vulnerability, trust, loss, and disappointment. Using aspects of functional education, they met during these five sessions to deepen their understanding of the intricacies of female friendships, and to explore how they are shaped and how they can go awry. They explored stories of each other's women pals and uncovered spiritual touchstones in these experiences.

Episcopalians 101 This short course provides newcomers or regular parish congregants and members an opportunity to better understand the history, theology, and sacraments of the Episcopal Church.

Wrestling with the Angels: This course is designed to assist parishioners in exploring spirituality, faith, philosophy, and ethics.

Sacred Ground Dialogue: The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series is part of the *Becoming Beloved Community* initiative of The Episcopal Church, a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is built around powerful documentary films and readings, which serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue. The curriculum covers various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness, focusing on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Hear the Poets Speak: The Language of Diversity: This two-night class focused on the voices of Black, Hispanic, Asians, Indigenous and immigrant citizens of the U.S. who, through their words, brought us a vision of their dreams and desires and hopes. The class looked inside the minds and souls of these American poets, using the Great Books method of inquiry.

Son of Laughter by Frederick Buechner *(book group):* Winner of the Critics Circle Award, is a retelling of the ancient story of Jacob with themes of the natural versus supernatural, guilt versus forgiveness, and doubt versus faith.

Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, by Debby Irving, a racial justice educator and writer. *(book group):* This discussion group addressed racial inequalities that

have become pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and which has hit both black communities and other minorities of color much harder than others.

A Challenge of Forgiveness: As Christians, seekers, and skeptics seeking to live well, we know that forgiveness is essential to living healthy and healing lives. Yet forgiveness does not always come easily. The class explored the reasons to—and the challenges and promise of—forgiving through the reading of Desmond & Mpho Tutu's The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World as a guide.

Adult Discussion Groups

20s/30s Faith Fellowship We collaborated with the 20s/30s FF to expand our program reach as reflected in the catalog. This led to a book group which held virtual discussion on a variety of topics with attendance ranging from 3-10. See the Attendance Table for a list of the topics as well as their report in Parish Life.

Adult Bible Studies, Meditation, and Centering Prayer (continuing)

Sunday Morning Bible Study met in person in February and went on hiatus from March to September. It resumed meeting on Zoom in September. It focused on finishing II Samuel and starting Genesis.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study focused on Romans 2.

Centering Prayer: Prior to the COVID pandemic, this drop-in offering was held every Thursday morning at 7:30 am. It now meets virtually by Zoom every morning at 8:00 am. These sessions provide parishioners with the opportunity to better understand and practice centering prayer – a silent and contemplative practice designed to deepen our connection to the Divine and to discuss relevant readings.

Meditation Center: In conjunction with the Insight Meditation Center of Washington parishioners and interested members of the community gather on Monday nights by Zoom to practice silent meditation and listen to a short dharma talk.

Baptism Course for Parents: This is offered throughout the year, as needed, to prepare parents for the sacrament of baptism. This year, parents took the course by Zoom in preparation for the baptism of their children. Two families participated, in spite of the constraints of the COVID virus.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

COURSE	ATTENDANCE	LEAD
20s/30sFaith Fellowship		Emily McDuff, Jessica Royals
Theme: Signs of Life: Why Church Matters from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist	9	
Theme: Loneliness, TNH	10	
Theme: (Re)commitment to Christian Service	8	
Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis	6	
Theme: Maintaining Relationships at a Distance	5	

War in Heaven by Charles Williams	3	
Theme: Gratitude & Spirituality through the Six Senses	6	
Calls and letter writing to parishioners, donations to Every Home DC	7	
Theme: Perseverance (*This American Life* Podcast)	4	
The Gospel Comes with a House Key by Rosaria Butterfield	TBD	
BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS	4	John Edwards, Kris Humphrey, Steve Jennifer Dalzell
SUNDAY SCHOOL		
Catechesis II	12	Suzanne Wells
Catechesis III	9	Stephanie Deutsch
Junior High School	8	Mary Thuell
High School	4	Kevin Flood
ADULT CE CATALOG CLASSES		
Sacred Ground Dialogue	21	Patricia Catalano
Hear the Poets Speak: The Language of Diversity	22	Susan Thompson
Son of Laughter (book group)	8	Cindy Dopp
Waking Up White (book group)	42	Patricia Catalano
The Challenge of Forgiveness	8	Michele Morgan
ADULT BIBLE AND RELIGIOUS CLASSES		
Episcopalians 101	60	Michele Morgan/Joe Hubbard (3 sep. classes)
Centering Prayer	44	Patricia Catalano
Sunday Morning Bible Study	22	Bob Ewald
Wednesday Bible Class	15	Peter Mosley Raiford Gaffney
St. Mark's Meditation Center	32	Michele Rivard

ADULT POP-UP CLASSES		
The Foundations of St. Mark's Sisterhood	23	Julie Murphy, Elizabeth McCain, and Nancy Yanish
Gilead (book group)	15	Cindy Dopp
Jesus and Politics (Podcast)	53	MicheleMorgan Joe Hubbard
Wrestling with the Angels	17	Michele Morgan Joe Hubbard

OUTREACH *Steve Dalzell (Outgoing Co-Chair) and Incoming Co-Chair (vacant)*
Board Officers: *Linda Staheli (current) and Dan Ramish (outgoing), Treasurer; Andrew Schmidt, Secretary*

Members: *Susan Sedgewick, Linda Staheli, Donna Sabino, Peter Nye, Margie Ware, Laura Beres, Jan Lipscomb, and Christina Herman (Vestry Liaison)*
Emeriti: *Jack Richards, Jane Rutherford, Sally Garr Brodhead, Ellen Spencer*
Affiliated Clergy/Staff: The Rev. Cindy Dopp (clergy liaison) and Caleb Nelson Amakar, Youth Minister

Mission: 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. The efforts of the Board principally take the forms of stewardship over those funds appropriated by the Vestry to care for others, liaising with and vetting organizations poised to deliver that care, and supporting and amplifying caring efforts brought to the Board by the congregation.

Vision: The Outreach Board as a successful catalyst for social justice.
Approach: The Outreach Board acts as a catalyst for St. Mark's to advance social justice in our commitment communities, as individuals and as a congregation. We actively partner with nonprofit organizations that we determine are highly effective in their service delivery. In doing so, we hope to create, promote, and support opportunities for us all to commit our time, talent, and treasure to help individuals and families develop their strengths and move toward self-sufficiency and self-determination. By doing so, we all can build relationships throughout the community and increase our knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing our neighbors in need.

Meetings: Third Wednesday at 7 p.m., monthly, unless shifted due to holidays or other conflicts. Members address ongoing issues regarding various programs and program status, evaluate funding requests, and requests for new program and event support.
For more information: See the "Service and Justice" page on our website (https://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/) or contact the Outreach Co-Directors at outreach@stmarks.net

Funded Programs from the Annual Budget

(2020 expenditures in parenthesis)

Everyone Home DC (Formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry) ($15,000 plus $1,200 for school supplies)

Everyone Home DC continued to provide urgent and critical resources to individuals and families, who are feeling far more exposed to the harshness of our new reality. St. Mark's institutional funding and the continuing generosity of individual parishioners combined with that from other faith institutions and the community ensure the needs of our most vulnerable residents can be at the center of a just recovery.

In 2020:

- Senior Warden Ryan Baugh joined Everyone Home DC's board, continuing our five-decade commitment to their mission.
- Everyone Home DC's Street Outreach team did COVID-19 health checks with those living on the streets. They distributed undergarments, body wipes, hand sanitizer, and other items essential to the health and safety of those with no place to shower or wash their hands and ensured that everyone had enough to eat.
- Everyone Home DC's family housing and prevention programs pivoted seamlessly to remote and limited in-person case management to safely support families, ensuring housing stability and access to much-needed resources and support. As Everyone Home DC families are at high risk for COVID-19, attending to their physical and mental wellbeing has been a critical part of the care provided.
- After a brief pause in service to establish safety protocols and secure necessary supplies, the day hospitality center, Shirley's Place, reopened to provide laundry, showers, mail pickup, grab-and-go snacks and toiletry bags, and emergency clothing to those in need.
- St. Mark's responded to the shift from the traditional in-kind donation drives for back-to-school supplies, Thanksgiving dinners, and holiday gift-giving to funding store gift cards. Everyone Home DC reported these gift cards were quickly distributed to their housing program families.
    - About 35 young scholars received school supplies by parishioners augmenting Outreach funds, which supported 24.
    - Parishioners funded gift cards for about 40 Thanksgiving Dinners
    - Many parishioners responded to the call for funding Santa's holiday gift cards; tracking the exact number of St Mark's participants proved less feasible than in previous years.

Bishop Walker School (BWS) ($5,000) This school for boys is a tuition-free Episcopal school for children from traditionally underserved communities. We have regularly supported it with financial donations and continue exploring other means of supporting their work. In response to the pandemic, BWS adapted into an online school. The school ensured all students had access to a computer and internet; scholars received daily live instruction, worked in small groups, had regular check-ins and bi-weekly video tutoring, and attended virtual chapel. Support staff and parent ambassadors conducted wellness checks with current and alumni families, and the school connected its families with THEARC partners (DC Central Kitchen, Martha's Table, Children's National) to distribute food and provide health care. For 2020-21, BWS has developed a plan for Responsive Distance Learning – an approach that can be flexible, resilient, and dynamic in the face of rapidly changing circumstances while creating equitable systems that can benefit its scholars and their families beyond the pandemic. See https://www.bishopwalkerschool.org/ for more information.

2020 Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH) ($2,100): Support for work in very poor rural mountain communities in Honduras has been a key St. Mark's outreach commitment for nearly two decades. The work has been led by the program director, Roy Lara, who, among other things, leads farmer-to-farmer training to improve sustainable methods to address challenges in agriculture, forestry, and health.

Two major events in 2020 upended this work. The first was COVID-19. Honduras immediately created and strictly enforced stay-at-home rules. Using SVH funds, Roy drove masks, gloves, and disinfectants to the communities. The second event was two category 4 hurricanes—Eta and Iota – which destroyed or severely damaged roads, drinking water systems, and homes. SVH funds are being used to help in the recovery. One of the communities is being relocated entirely. Trees downed during the hurricanes will be used to build new homes.

The SVH website www.sustainablevillageshonduras.org was thoroughly revised this year. Visit it to read an updated explanation of the program and many individual stories about the leaders and groups in these communities.

Salvation Army Grate Patrol ($1,600) This program brings an evening meal to homeless neighbors 365 nights a year and serves more than 3,000 people each month. In normal times, volunteers, primarily parents and children, make sandwiches and bag meals on the 4th Sunday of every month. Under COVID, instead of reimbursing the month's coordinator for the cost of ingredients and supplies, we have sent direct contributions to the Salvation Army site to offset their costs. We look forward to making sandwiches as a community once we are gathering again.

Capital Area Food Bank ($1,500) When it became evident that several programs St. Mark's was expecting to support would not be holding in-person activities in 2020, and that community needs had changed, the Outreach Board decided to commit additional funds to immediate support for area food programs, including the CAFB (https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org).

Incarceration Justice Ministry [IJM] ($1,000) A group of parishioners and friends who meet to discuss and support reform of the prisons and detention facilities in our country. IJM continues to write letters to D.C. residents imprisoned in federal facilities (across the country, since there is no facility for D.C. felons) and are supported by Interfaith Action for Human Rights [IAHR]. Over the past year, the IJM group has continued to meet almost every month, using online resources to gather. In July 2020, IJM hosted guest speakers from the DC Office of the Attorney General, Seema Gajwani, Special Counsel for Juvenile Justice Reform, and Connie Pullium, a skilled facilitator. Their work involves efforts to keep juvenile offenders out of the Criminal Justice system by offering Restorative Justice, an alternative to victims who agree to this course of action. The facilitators bring together the victim, the offender, and supporters of each to talk until a resolution agreeable to the victim is decided.

IJM attended several meetings supported by the Western Presbyterian Church Anti-Racism Leadership Team and seminars sponsored by the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church's McClendon Scholars Program. Two seminars featured James Foreman, Jr., Yale Law School professor and author of "Locking Up Our Own." IJM joined a third seminar, with Civil Rights leader Rev. James Lawson, who shared "A New Year's Message for America." Theo Brown, the director of the McClendon Scholars Program, spoke to the group in December 2020, to share ideas about effective ways for church groups to support incarcerated individuals or returning citizens. IJM participated in community meetings and congressional meetings about incarcerated individuals to become better educated advocates. IJM read additional books including Guilty People by Abbe Smith, Push Out by Monique Morris, and The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin. The IJM group has grown from five to about 12 individuals. The ministry group is thankful for the support of the Outreach Board, providing donations to the Interfaith

Action for Human Rights [IAHR] and the National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens, located in SE Washington, DC. Those interested should contact Jan Lipscomb at juanita.lipscomb@gmail.com.

Good Neighbor Capitol Hill Refugee Resettlement Ministry ($500) The GNCH Refugee Ministry of resettlement and family support operations continued with much reduced personal contact due to COVID protocols. All person-to-person tutorials and employment mentoring programs with volunteers were eliminated. A few tutors have sustained virtual connections with their families. Employment mentoring was totally cancelled as minimal employment possibilities were available for new hires.

Although IOM (International Office of Migration) and the State Department terminated their immigration travel programs, many previously vetted SIV (Special Immigration Visa) Afghan families continued to arrive in the DMV area and ask for resettlement assistance from the three area resettlement agencies. As a result, GNCH has provided furnishing supplies for at least 15 apartments during COVID which brings the total number to 54 apartments in four years.

GNCH received a small grant, which enabled the purchase of a more road-worthy van for transporting furnishings and families in need of transportation. GNCH continues to rely on donations of goods in kind and funds for needed supplies to furnish the apartments. Most Afghan families consist of a minimum of 4 – 12 family members, which requires furnishings, bedding, kitchen supplies, and fresh food and staples. The families arrive with only the basic luggage allowance. Our GNCH team consists of many older adults who were more vulnerable due to Covid-19. The seniors continued to organize the furnishings but have relied on younger volunteers to do the actual delivery and set up of the apartments.

Food Security for refugee families has been a major concern as most heads of household are under-employed at best. Through the generosity of individuals and donations from many of our congregations, GNCH was able to provide $14,000 in gift cards, which were distributed to more than 75 families in May and again in December. Some GNCH volunteers have made contributions individually to their families, and provide some advice, but many refugees are not receiving stimulus checks and are often unfamiliar with food banks or tenant aid and other options. The families are managing virtual education as the schools have assisted families with Chromebooks or other devices, but there are extra challenges with many students in households sharing devices and internet and parents who are not English proficient. This is a difficult time for refugees. The recent announcement of the Biden administration indicating they are raising the refugee quota is good news for the US from a humanitarian perspective and it reminds us all of our responsibility for a generous level of commitment to refugees.

Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) ($400) Leadership team: *Kit Arrington, Edna Boone, Josie Jordan, Chris Berendes, Elin Whitney-Smith, Betsy and Colie Agle, Steve Dalzell*
Looking back on 2020 from the vantage point of mid-February 2021, the WIN team is pleased to report a significant leap in support for WIN within the Parish. This hit a new peak in December with the Vestry's decision for St. Mark's to become a WIN Member in 2021, with a $3,000 contribution. This is in addition to a $400 donation from 2020 Outreach funds to support WIN's Zoom capacity, critical for large online meetings under Covid-19. This financial support paralleled broad parishioner engagement in WIN's citywide events, including eight parishioners participating in WIN's Winter 2021 leadership & action courses, 18 at the District-wide year-end celebration, and 38 at the November St. Mark's information session on Reservation 13. At this point, a Realm mailing list for WIN news is at 59 participants and growing; this list has enabled 30+ one-on-one discussions among these individuals. An Epiphany 2021 sermon series was focused on WIN, service, and social justice.

WIN meetings, classes, and actions of particular interest to St. Mark's included information sessions on Public Lands and Affordable Housing with a focus on the 67 acres of Reservation 13 at the southeast edge of Capitol Hill, an action meeting of 850 people, meeting jointly with other WIN members, sending 600 letters supporting a $150 million increase in funding for: public housing repairs, the Housing Production Trust Fund, community-based safety programs, and Immigrant Justice Legal Services, and an online public hearing where WIN was the largest lobbying group and a strong promoter of the new WIN/PEPCO collaboration for equity job opportunities in DC.

Check the website stmarks.net/win for continued updates and/or email us at win@stmarks.net.

Sunday Suppers, Sunday Suppers Support Team and Soup Kitchen Activities ($148.22) Sunday Suppers, a 501(c)(3), supported by St. Mark's and other churches, served dinner to 30-60 unhoused persons every Sunday evening up until the Covid-19 crisis. St. Mark's volunteers, including Jack Richards, Alix Pereira, Lea Crusey, Jeb Ory, Dan Ramish, and many others, volunteered or donated food and other resources, and prepared the dinner served at a DC park site on the 3rd Sunday of the month. St. Mark's parishioner Lisa Ramish, who had been the overall director of Sunday Suppers, has handed those duties to a new director who is not affiliated with St. Mark's. Expectations are that at an appropriate time, Sunday Suppers will resume operation.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) ($0) SMGW (https://samaritanministry.org/) is a faith-based, non-profit organization whose focus is on social and economic empowerment of individuals through *Next Step* coaching and training. It provides one-on-one counseling to help participants set goals and take "Next Steps" to achieve them. A significant component of *Next Step* is its STRIVE job readiness training and placement program for participants who are seeking sustainable and meaningful employment. SMGW operates in five locations, including two that are east of the Anacostia River, in close proximity to Capitol Hill. This is a part of the District where poverty, homelessness, and unemployment or underemployment are most acute.
For the past few years, under the leadership of the clergy, the Outreach Board has been reviewing our institutional support to SMGW. In 1986, St. Mark's was one of the original 12 founding "partner parishes" that established the organization and over the years, a number of St. Mark's parishioners have volunteered at SMGW. In the past three years, 20 members of St. Mark's have made financial contributions to SMGW, but we did not contribute institutionally to SMGW in 2020. Parishioners David Perry and Ellen Frost have started a discussion within St. Mark's to re-evaluate our support in 2021.

Gun Violence Prevention ($0) In past years, members of St. Mark's GVP group have supported events in partnership with the non-profit Urban Rural Action, the DC chapter of Moms Demand Action, and others, and hosted the annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence. As with most events in 2020, the National Vigil was canceled. All other activities of the St. Mark's Gun Violence Prevention Group were suspended as well (St. Mark's funds earmarked to support these programs were transferred to Covid-19 relief efforts.). The GVP group has great hope that the Vigil and other events and activities may safely resume later this year.

Funded Programs in Addition to the Outreach Pillar Annual Budget

In "normal years," additional funds are collected and given to designated recipients at various times during the year. We often use this to support or supplement private parishioner donations to small or newly identified partners such as the Greater DC Diaper Bank. We are unaware of this occurring during 2020.

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

Green Lions ($1,000 from a dedicated budget account) The Green Lions, our environmental committee, started the year with an exploration of whether we could use washable plates and cutlery (ed. We have been using washable plates and cutlery for some years, paying Jane Byrne to do these and coffee cups following coffee hour and/or pub lunch) to reduce trash and/or compost the food scraps and leftovers. Issues included the cost of hiring a company to remove the compostable materials and how to coordinate with the volunteer kitchen managers, who oversee the kitchen after all the Sunday services and meals at the church. The end of in-person church services put this effort on indefinite hold. In the fall, the Green Lions decided to use its 2020 funds to support two organizations that support environmental efforts in the DMV:

· *$500 to Fresh Farms/FoodPrints:* Agriculture has a great impact on climate change, and inequality of income creates great disparity in access to healthy food. The FoodPrints food and garden education program has adapted to comply with Covid-19 restrictions, helping to provide home delivery of fresh, local produce to 40 children to ensure equitable participation in virtual Food Prints cooking classes. This program reaches students in partner schools located in low-income neighborhoods in Wards 6, 7, and 8. More information can be found at https://www.freshfarm.org.

· *$500 to Interfaith Power & Light—DC.MD.NoVA* (also known as IPL-DMV). Interfaith Power & Light works in the Washington, D.C., area to help churches save energy, go green, and respond to climate change, including through environmental advocacy. It is part of a national alliance of similar organizations. The website states the alliance goal is "building a national religious response to the climate crisis." St. Mark's has benefited from its participation in IPL-DMV in the past.

The Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act passed in 2018 set ambitious goals for the reduction of greenhouse gases in the District. IPL-DMV will provide important information to us about the development of regulations and actions to meet those goals and about opportunities for action where there are implementation challenges.

Mid East Working Group (MEWG) *Maureen Shea (Chair), Jennifer Cate, Karen Getman, Chris Herman, Mary Neznek, Mandy Paust*
Thanks to the internet and a bit of creativity, MEWG continued to provide opportunities to better understand the complexities of the Israeli / Palestinian conflict, support our partners in the Holy Land, as well as welcome Afghan refugees and assist them as they adjust to life in the United States. While it has been hard to push towards new options and opportunities, there are possibilities to be explored and, with the help of our good committee, MEWG will do so.

Events: MEWG's primary efforts normally are the programs we host. With the church closed, those could not happen and we could not host outside groups as we had in the past. Use of our space at no cost has been one of the ways we have supported other groups working for Middle East peace and reconciliation. We have broadcast information about webinars, movies, and analysis of ongoing events though our regular E-blast.

Communications: Jennifer Cate and Mandy Paust handle email communications and a Facebook page, through which MEWG sends out information about local events and articles of note that offer different perspectives on aspects of Middle East policy and life, particularly related to Palestinians and Israelis.

Supporting individuals and institutions in the Holy Land: In lieu of the Maundy Thursday dinner, where we traditionally raise funds for the Good Friday Offering to benefit the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, MEWG asked the community to send money directly to the American

Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) for Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza and St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus. We also encouraged donations through AFEDJ for the Archbishop of Jerusalem's discretionary fund to assist those impacted by Covid-19. As a result, we could not track how much was raised or who contributed. Also, we could not send our donation directly to the Diocese as we have in the past as a way of maintaining our personal connection with them.

We converted our annual Advent sale of olive oil and gifts from the Holy Land to a pop-up sale using the church garden. We responded to an urgent request from Rev. Sari Ateek, Rector of St. John's Norwood Church+Chevy Chase, to raise funds for a critically needed 4D ultrasound machine for St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus with a $1,000 from Advent sale proceeds. We gave additional proceeds for health care needs in Jerusalem and the West Bank. We did a special Covid-19-related olive oil sale in August, which netted $500 in contributions to AFEDJ.

Diocesan Committee: We supported the Voices from the Holy Land film series with a donation of $200 and promoted the annual Lessons and Carols simulcast between the United States and the Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem.

ARTS COUNCIL Tracy Councill, Elin Whitney-Smith, *Co-Conveners*

For the past several years, we have engaged parishioners of all ages in creating beautiful and expressive art pieces that enriched parish life. When the pandemic put an end to in-person gathering, we could no longer host art making sessions during coffee hour.
History Month, Caleb Amaker asked the Arts Council to organize kids' activities during coffee hour. We made coloring pages of Tracy's 'Absalom Jones' Icon. St. Mark's themed and seasonal coloring pages were available to be used at the Youth Director's discretion.
We also lost the ability to display and view art. We solved this challenge in two ways:
Outdoor Art:

- In response to the January 6 insurrection, we organized an impromptu show of word clouds and images, using the garden fence for messages of love and peace – the Capitol was ringed in fences our fences were ringed in love.

- Three current Lenten Art Projects:

  *Parishioners are invited to submit words in response to the theme of Wilderness, for an evolving word cloud banner that will hang in the church for Ash Wednesday, Sunday services, and on the fence during the week. The deteriorating charcoal words symbolize the idea of impermanence.

  *There is also a "chalk-in" on the A Street sidewalk, continuing the theme of wilderness. It will deteriorate and be renewed as parishioners and neighbors add, and weather and traffic remove the chalk.

  *In collaboration with the youth director, we are assisting with a photo/art/word challenge for Lent. A word is sent out daily for people to respond either by taking a photo that expresses the meaning of the word or by adding to the sidewalk chalk art.

Worship and Online:

- The Loaves and Fishes sculpture was begun during Advent 2019 (fishes— "what we bring to be blessed") and Lent 2020 (loaves— "what sustains you"). It was to hang above the altar for Easter. Since we were not able to be in the Nave, Tracy created a stop-animated movie of the sculpture, displayed at: http://stmarks.net

- Betty Foster's creche was set up for Advent and photographs included in worship. Each week more figures were added until it was completed on Christmas Eve.

- As a contribution to the Christmas Eve service, Tracy and Josie Jordan made a stop-animation movie of a candle henge encircling the altar accompanying the choir singing 'Silent Night'. The henge was meant to symbolize the presence of the community encircling the altar.

- Tracy Councill, Arts Council co-director, was part of the team that wrote and organized the Christmas pageant.

- Elin Whitney-Smith organized an online Advent art exhibit on Renewal. Photos of art and artist's statements from fifteen St Mark's artists were included in the show. The show is at: (http://stmarks.net/advent2020art).

- Photos of the Sidewalk chalk and photo challenge will be at: http://stmarks.net/lent2021art

What was rejected? What should we remember? Despair, defeatism; that, "Nothing can be done." Once constraints are accepted, they spur creative activity.

Reflections on our experience We have added fence shows, movies, virtual shows, virtual meetings, home participation, and collaboration with worship, music and youth to our repertoire. These should continue once we regather. Parish-wide art collaborations are a meaningful way for folks to engage with the community and build welcome and belonging.

Finally, prior to the end of her Vestry term in 2020, Tracy gathered and revised the charters of all member organizations of the Arts Pillar, to define the roles and relationships between the Visual Arts Group, the Players, the Yoga Studio, Music Studio, and the Dance Studio. Owing to the pandemic, the revised documents were never reviewed, but we may want to take action when we have the bandwidth.

Yoga Center: *Christine Romero, Director*
Our last in-person class was March 4. Within a week of shutdown, we were offering 5 free classes online each week. After 6 months, we asked our students to donate monthly to obtain access to our virtual classes and pay our non-staff teachers. Staff Administrator and Director each received 3 months of PPP salary. In May, SMYC held a well-received online Sound Bath Meditation. During the summer months, our Sunday class was responsibly held outdoors, with distancing and masks required, while simultaneously streamed online. This lifted the spirits of our students greatly, and we added two outdoor Saturday classes. Our attendance diminished over all classes, as did our e-Newsletter subscribers, by about 10%. However, we welcomed new students via the online platform from across the city and country. The online format is best for long-time practitioners and less so for beginners. By request, we added an accessible Chair Yoga class. Despite reduction in paid classes, fewer students, and the additional expense of the online platform, SMYC was able to meet its annual $1200 commitment to the church, plus contributed an additional $140 from the Sound Bath; and between September '20 and February '21 met salary obligations to Admin staff and teachers.

Dance Studio *Rosetta Brooks, Director*

Our last in-person classes were Wednesday March 11, 2020, taught by Rosetta "Rosie" Brooks. Since then, our staff have been teaching both children and adult classes on Zoom.

We were very lucky to have had an extremely good Fall registration for the 2019-2020 season leaving us with a good surplus going into the pandemic. Michele was able to include the Dance Studio in the COVID grant she applied for Spring 2020.

The Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) kept our actual payroll expenses at a minimum for several months and allowed the staff to be paid their full salary. It also allowed us to stretch our finances into the Fall registration for 2020-2021, very good considering the circumstances.

We made some adjustments with the schedule for the children's classes so that the sessions were 10 weeks each instead of 20. This allowed parents to make adjustments if their child developed problems in school.

We did lose some of the younger students who did not do well with virtual dance classes. However, this worked in our favor for some students who returned the following session.

The adult exercise classes picked up students from across the country and even the world including Croatia and Qatar. Several have already asked about keeping the digital class for the long-distance students when we return to in-person teaching.

We have been extremely lucky to have folks who have supported us with extra donations when they mailed their tuition, both adults and parents. Several adults are taking every available adult class, some twice a day.

Tuition payments made out to St. Mark's are mailed to Rosie's home address and she then sends an email confirmation that it has been received and who the instructor will be. She deposits these and sends a notice of the bank transaction to Patricia Braley, Finance Officer.

The Studio was also able to make our annual payment for space.

Music Studio In person piano and voice lessons were discontinued during the pandemic. Both teachers, Stephanie Ng and Diane Atherton, have continued teaching lessons virtually.

Concerts and Other Music Events Numerous scheduled performances had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We did allow a few sporadic rentals for small groups of musicians who wished to rehearse and record in the nave, including The 21st Century Consort, The Washington Bach Consort, the professional choir, The Thirteen, and the National Chamber Ensemble. In the fall, the Chiarina Chamber Players began their season with monthly virtual concerts in the nave. And in mid-December, we even held our beloved "Carols & Cheer" event virtually.

PARISH LIFE *Julie Murphy reporting (Convener open)* (ed.listing in random order)

Regional Groups

Virginia *Jan Lipscomb, Beth Mahood* We have not been getting together except for one outdoor 'visit' on the grounds of St. Peter's near the home of Beth Mahood and Stewart Andrews.

St. Mark's East *Michelle Strange, Doris Burton* This group encompasses those living east of the city: Collington Life Care as well as the rest of Prince George's County. We have been gathering monthly on Zoom with Michelle serving as moderator. Generally, these were check-ins but in February '21, Nadine Hathaway served as moderator and had attendees ask questions of another: stories included how someone found St. Mark's to how one was selected to participate selecting the contents of the LEVAS II hymnal. We have 28 on our list with about 17 regular attendees. We plan to continue these as long as there is interest.

Middle Agers *Jim Brooks, Jen Dalzell* We have been dormant during COVID. The list of members was used in the spring and summer as part of the wider parish effort to check in on folks and help keep the parish connected.

Film Club *Alicia Ruble* We have been on hiatus since January 2020. We considered trying something virtual, but it is a bit complicated, as people would need to pay for some kind of streaming service or Netflix in order to view movies and discuss them. Also, one of the things that makes the Film Club work is the in-person fellowship. We hope to gather again and celebrate our 20th anniversary, which was supposed to be May 2020, at some future date once things return to normal with the wide distribution of the vaccine.

3rd Agers *Don Gangloff* Like all of St.Marks, we have been shut down since the beginning of the pandemic. We have been trying to organize some form of gathering on a teleconferencing platform. With the help of Chris Berendes, we recently arranged a Zoom "Potluck" presentation February 20, 2021. Joan Pierotti read from her new book, Transforming a Life: A Memoir. We hope to be able to do another Zoom "Potluck" event later this spring or early summer.

Widows/Widowers *Mary Cooper* Our group continued to meet the first Friday of each month, via Zoom. Fortunately, all members are sufficiently technologically knowledgeable to be able to participate. Even though many in the group have had a lot of other Zoom meetings, our sessions have been helpful because we do not have a set agenda. If someone has a need for advice or counsel on issues related to caregiving or bereavement, we share what we know; but for most of our gatherings during the pandemic we have simply visited and reflected on life, which has been helpful for people who live alone and are pretty isolated. At such a time the cohesion of the church community is especially helpful.

20s/30s *Emily McDuff, Jessica Royals conveners* We luckily were able to keep up 20s/30s programming in a virtual setting. Below is the list of events we held with the topic discusses (we took a break during the summer):

1. February 2020 Faith Fellowship (FF) theme: Be Changed
2. March 2020 FF Signs of Life: Why Church Matters
3. April 2020 FF Loneliness
4. May 2020 FF Recommitment to Christian Life
5. Summer Book Club: Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
6. September 2020 FF Maintaining Relationships at a Distance
7. Fall Book Club War in Heaven by Charles Williams
8. November 2020 FF Gratitude and the Six Senses
9. Holiday Service Event: we donated to Every Home DC and led a call and letter writing campaign (with Justi and Cindy's tremendous help organizing and training) to reach out to parishioners who were lonely or going through a hard time
10. January 2021 FF *This American Life* podcast on the COVID-19 vaccine development and perseverance
11. Winter Book Club (February 2021) The Gospel Comes with a House Key by Rosaria Butterfield

Being Church: Small Group Discussions, July 6 – 11, 2020 *Tracy Councill, Julie Murphy, Chris Berendes*

28 volunteers hosted 83 participants in 12 Zoom small group discussions. Each began by asking participants to share a story of connection or community. Participants spoke of the many ways our church created and deepened connections, through Christian Ed, by receiving or offering support through challenging life events or for church activities, via service opportunities in Honduras and the Middle East, during the AIDS crisis, and elsewhere, via worship and fellowship in the Nave, and now through the Sunday worship and Monday thru Saturday Compline – both via Facebook, and morning prayer (3/week) centering prayer (daily), and coffee hour (Sundays) via Zoom.

Asked to consider how we could be a community during the pandemic, participants suggested ongoing small groups – some deep, some broad – including book and affinity groups and CE classes. They were concerned that we maintain intergenerational connections, accommodate "Zoom fatigue" by providing safe in person fellowship, improve parish communications, and offer service and caregiving opportunities.

Behind the scenes, the team was challenged to get the word out far and wide, carefully framed this as an opportunity for fellowship rather than a referendum on future directions for the parish, took care to provide time slots that would work for busy parents, and adjusted to demand by cancelling two sessions that had minimal sign-ups. It was most gratifying to hear, repeatedly, that participants just enjoyed entering into discussion with familiar and unfamiliar faces. We hope that formats like this are repeated, online and in person, in coming years.

E-group (Discourse) *Christoph Berendes & Raiford Gaffney* Yahoo Groups has been the home for the parish general purpose email list, aka "the E-group", for many years. When we learned that Yahoo would terminate their Groups service for all on December 15, we decided to migrate the E-group to new software, Discourse.org, and a new provider. This entailed a small monthly fee, but we felt this worthwhile to have more control over this virtual space than "free" services generally provide.

We invited the 189 email addresses who'd been listed as receiving email from the Yahoo Group to sign up for the new E-group. (Keeping in mind that some proportion of these email addresses will have gone out of use, e.g. when the email owner ended the account.)
There have been some growing pains. Discourse.org offers email interaction (as the Yahoo Group did) but is more oriented towards web interactions. By mid-February 2021, 100 people had signed up and a handful of posts/replies every week, on subjects such as the health and situation of an older parishioner, controversies in the wider church, Christian education opportunities, and various opportunities to help with parish projects.

Hospitality *Kenn Allen, Maureen Shea* For us, there were both short term and longer term issues that needed addressing. Of particular concern in the short term is how it will be handled once St. Mark's regathers. While coffee hour and Sunday lunch are important ways in which we build and sustain community, we recognize that there will be many safety considerations as the nation hopefully heads toward herd immunity. It will also take time to make sure all the machinery which has been shut down is up and working and there are sufficient supplies.

In addition, even before the pandemic, it was clear there was a need to reassess how we provide hospitality. For special events, from small receptions to large, St. Mark's volunteers readily. It was the weekly needs where we fell short. The primary challenge was finding volunteers for all aspects of coffee hour and Sunday lunch. Too often it fell to the Hospitality Coordinators to provide the food and take care of clean-up. There are also issues of keeping the kitchen in order after groups use it. Unfortunately,caterers are much better about clean-up!

During COVID, all hospitality was shut down with the building. That left us with a lot of food in the refrigerators and freezer. There were items in the pantry with limited shelf life as well as in the food baskets in the Nave. Anything that had not been opened was able to be delivered to Shirley's Place or a pop-up food closet in Ward 6. What to do with food might not be on anyone's general list for what to do when a building shuts down, however, it was helpful to address it quickly. Imagine what might have grown in those refrigerators! We were glad to be able to facilitate St. Mark's contributing to one of the significant issues during the pandemic – food insecurity.

Women to Women *Edna Boone* We began 2020 with a February session in the Dance Studio 'Shaking it Out' with Rosie. It was fun to move together and Rosie was successfully able to pull off teaching us a routine! Unfortunately, planning for a liturgical dance was put on hold due to the pandemic. In May, the group participated in an online 'sound bath' with the St Marks Yoga studio. This fall we held a Garden Meet Up and were able to see each other safely outside in the garden. Lastly, many women of St. Marks participated in the Sisterhood class in the Spring led by Elizabeth McCain and Julie Murphy.

So many unknowns made it difficult to plan for the future. Had we known it was a year + we would have attempted to do more. Whether to hold events at all since remote appeared to be the only option.

It's hard to reach everyone, not everyone is in Realm and online announcements are not as good as paper, in-person, and physical posters and signup sheets.

Women's Investment Network (WIN) *Nancy Donaldson, Penny Farley* Because WIN has become quite adept at swerving with the swerves and bounces in the market and, yup, made money again in 2020.

College of Crustaceans *Jim Steed, Doris Burton* Given our primary event is the annual Crab Feast, the College did not even meet this year. Occasionally, when there is no feast, the College has named the culprit responsible for the lack as the Crab of the Year, ergo, it is possible COVID-19 may win that award for '20 *and* '21. Remains to be seen. We look forward to the return of the Feast in 2022.

Lichfield Link *Doris Burton* Our relationship with the Cathedral in the British Midlands has, for many years, benefitted from internet communication and this year was no exception. Brian and Pat Empsall, my counterparts, continued our correspondence, reporting on how the British were dealing with the pandemic (occasionally, their lock-downs were more severe including one period when Brits were restricted to the outdoors near home!) Pat and Brian report as well on political news, including reactions to the lives of Prince Harry and wife Megan as well as asking about ours: Trump's presidency brought numerous concerns! Brian and Pat's daughter Ruth and her husband, both teachers, face many of the same issues education here has. Hopes for a choir tour in '21 were dashed but we still hope one can be scheduled when it is safe for all of us to travel.

Ed.note: no reports from Lambda Lions, Legal Lions Answering Angels (on hiatus), Dozier Library (closed), and Winged Lion Review. The annual Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner, part of Holy Week, the parish picnic, and the annual retreat were not held.



The crozier of the 6thC pope who sent Augustine to England to begin the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons

STAFF REPORTS

RECTOR *The Reverend Michele Morgan, 12th Rector*

I have struggled to write a report this year. My normal formula has gone out the window and I realized that I need to write from scratch. I froze a little and I am, as always, late in writing this. I realize that I have much to say and little time and my usual frame is gone.

A case could be made that the last sentence of that paragraph sums up my entire year. I felt as though everything familiar and normal about my job disappeared when the Bishop ordered all Episcopal churches closed as of March 12th of 2020. I announced it to the staff and then the whole world changed: for me, for our parish and for all of you.

Suddenly, I no longer knew how to do pastoral care, worship services, teach, preach or, really, any part of my job. My only solace (and heartache) was that we are all in the same boat.

With the help of Parish Administrator **James Rostron** and Finance Manager **Patricia Braley**, we made the leap to Zoom and I started Monday-to-Friday staff meetings so we could check in with one another and make sure we were connecting. It was necessary, especially in the early days, to create the "meet each other in the hallways" vibe to check in with each other. I finished teaching my "Finding Fred: Lessons from Mr. Rogers" class on Zoom.

For our worship, we spent one week watching the cathedral service. Then, **Jeff Kempskie** and I started to research a way to get a worship service to the community. On March 22nd, the second Sunday after closing, with more WIFI capability created by **Charlie Rupp**, we presented our first Sunday morning live-stream broadcast from St. Mark's. It was just Jeff Kempskie, **Marika Klein, David Deutsch**(doing the camera work) and me.

Meanwhile, **Elin Whitney Smith and Chris Berendes** initiated Monday thru Friday Morning Prayer at 11 AM and Bible Study on Wednesday. They did it through Zoom, and kept a five-day-a-week schedule until March 20th, then shifted to the current M-W-F format.

Our Adjunct Clergy, The Rev. **Patricia Catalano,** moved her Centering Prayer group online and started meeting daily, from March 17th to December 31st. She met that group an astonishing 260 times! Patricia has been knitting together a community, generative and gifted work in 2020 that continues into 2021.

On March 19th, another dedicated group of lay volunteers started leading the service of Compline, six evenings per week, Monday through Saturday, using our Facebook page. **Caitlyn Frazier, Caleb Nelson Amaker, and Joe Hubbard** carried the load for the first six months, then **Ryan Baugh** joined, then **Loretta Veney and Karen Wiedemann.** Their 15-minute service at 8:30 pm has a loyal following and is a gift to our whole community.

In May, we also started to hold the 5pm service on Zoom, one Sunday a month; the group was getting smaller so we decided to meet every Sunday night at 5pm on Zoom, and the congregation has begun to grow again.

Our finances were healthy going into the shutdown, yet we immediately met to put together a bare-bones budget, if the situation came to that. I made the decision to stop the search for an assistant rector and see how our budget worked out for the year. Our pledge campaign goal was $890,000 and by March 2020 we had not met it. We tightened our belts and tried to figure out ways to save money. The concern was two-fold: one, we instantly lost all space-use income, about 14% of our budget, and two, we were concerned that people might well lose their jobs and we did not want them fulfilling a pledge if they were struggling to pay their mortgage. Through the work of John Edwards and the Finance Committee we had a plan moving forward that we, thankfully, did not have to implement (for many reasons):

1. The folks who made pledges continued to give; some gave more than they had pledged, and some continued to make the payments on their Extended Vision pledge.
2. People who used to be members stepped up and financially supported us from afar because they could worship with us in the new format and have always been a part of us.
3. We had new givers from around the country.
4. **Patricia Braley,** our Finance Manager, J**ohn Edwards** our Treasurer, and **Amy Mc Phearson,** our Accountant, worked hard to secure a Payroll Protection Plan loan to protect our payroll, including that of the Yoga Studio and Dance Studio teachers.
5. Finally, we had an amazing gift from the estate of **Joya Cox**, a long-time member. Her gift paid off our mortgage and our line of credit.

Caleb Nelson Amaker and I started a weekly show called "Growing with God," in which we have attempted to break open the weekly gospel for children.

The number of people on our books stayed mostly consistent. Eleven families moved away, 2 people moved to new churches, and, sadly we had 4 deaths in 2020. For various reasons, we removed about 20 people from our rolls, an additional loss of 40.

It has been a very strange year. We have held two in-person funerals and two weddings since the start of the pandemic. We also held two baptisms in the courtyard and one on the front stoop of my home during the 5 pm Zoom service.

So many people have been a part of making this "church of the diaspora" work… here are a few, and I know I am in *danger of missing people and of missing people who would have helped if they lived closer, did not have underlying conditions, etc.*

- **Ryan Baugh,** Senior Warden, helped lead not only from the distance of six miles from the church but also from his parent's house as he cared for them. Ryan has gone way out of his comfort zone, learned on the job, and became an amazing leader.
- **Kenn Allen & Maureen Shea** for checking the building regularly, bringing in the mail, and following up with us...and Kenn, for buttoning down the building with me when we were expecting a riot (ed: political demonstration on January 6, 2021, when a march resulted in the Capitol being breached).
- **Charlie Rupp, David Deutsch, & J.T. Spivy** made the service work in a video format, along with Jeff Kempskie.
- **Alix Pereira** for doing a pledge campaign without meeting in person, not just meeting our goal in an economic crisis but bringing in almost 6% over our goal.
- **Tracy Councill, Jim Brooks, Elizabeth Godec, & Chris Deutsch** for operating cameras and always making Jeff, our cantors, and me look good.
- Vestry Members who served an extra 5 months: **Tracy Councill, Jim Brooks and Alix Pereira** and **Jim, Tracy, Alix, Kim Bayliss & Kit Arrington** made our first-ever Virtual Annual Meeting work, and a special thanks to **Charlie Rupp** for making the election work.

- **Doris Burton, Susan Ryerson, & Joan Schindel** for taking care of the Altar Guild, knowing many members needed to stay home and be safe.
- **Raiford Gaffney** for coming in to count money.
- **Josie Jordan** for opening up the church for people to spend time in the space. She also came in as a verger and kept us on our toes as an extra person helping us manage the Sunday morning service.
- **Martha Huizenga, Jennifer Cate, Malissa Zimmerman, & David Deutsch** for keeping the 5 pm community connected and in service.
- **Elin Whitney-Smith and Chris Berendes** for Morning Prayer.
- **Chris Berendes** for helping those of us who are technologically challenged to get online and get hooked up and connected in.
- The Vestry of St. Mark's: Senior Warden **Ryan Baugh,** Junior Warden **Jim Pittman;** The Class of 2021: **Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, & Amber Macdonald;** The Class of 2022: **Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, & Kit Arrington;** The class of 2023: **Brent Bickley, Linnell Grundman, & Fritz Henn**; Treasurer **John Edwards,** Register **Kim Bayliss,** and Counsel, **Mary Thuell.** And finally, Diocesan Delegates: **Peter Nye, Caitlin Frazier and Sandy Padgett**

I would be remiss if I did not add a note about our staff, both paid and volunteer.

Caleb Nelson Amaker Caleb's work to develop online activities has supported our youth and youngest members of the community during this pandemic. He developed a podcast ('Bible Storytime') in response to parental concern that children are watching too many videos. In partnership with the rector, he has created a video series ('Growing with God') and a children's service. In the absence of an in-person pageant, Caleb organized the online Christmas pageant, working with families and volunteer video editors to bring this service together. He is bringing our youth together with online gatherings that continue to keep them connected to each other and to St. Mark's during this time. In addition to his youth and family work, Caleb's worship contributions include recruitment and support of the volunteers leading Compline, moderation of Sunday morning online communication via Facebook chat, and coordination of leadership for coffee hour, sermon seminar, etc.

Patricia Braley has continued to manage our finances. As congregation members can no longer make contributions during Sunday services, Patricia developed a means for fund-specific online giving that allows members to contribute to special time-limited funds (e.g., the Festival Fund). She researched and led the reinstitution of the sales tax exemption for St. Mark's, a critical and unexpectedly time-consuming process. Patricia also worked with John Edwards to successfully apply for the PPP loan which allowed us to retain all staff and provided some funds for nursery workers and staff from District Montessori along with the Dance and Yoga Studios. Beyond her financial contributions, she has improved the use of Realm and Google docs, created forms that help staff do their work better, and, with James Rostron, researched and implemented a new phone system.

Jeff Kempskie has been instrumental in online worship, first through the transition and then the maintenance and improvement of online services. In March, he participated in research and analysis of tools for live streaming and managed the volunteer team of Charlie and David to increase our bandwidth and set a production standard for worship that we are proud to put out to our community. Jeff's contributions to online worship include learning to edit videos, creating a virtual choir, using click tracks, and supporting choir members to be successful participants. This is a tremendous time commitment, and Jeff has put in more additional hours this year because of his desire to have it done well. Additionally, Jeff has increased his work to engage newcomers (writing the online survey on our website) and to provide community-building for the choir as his pastoral community, leading to Zoom Choir Thursdays.

Katherine Parr Philipson has worked with the staff online to create bulletins. Our usual practice was to come to the office and mark up documents. Katherine has been on Zoom creating and editing documents with four of us at a time. Katherine has created a way for us to get the information she needs so that we have successful bulletins and announcements.

James Rostron work has perhaps undergone the most dramatic transition during this pandemic year. When the building closed, James worked hard to adapt to an online environment and has become essential in managing online communications. He curates the St. Mark's Daily, manages the weekly eGospel, and is, at this time, helping to update website content. In his role as building administrator, James has ensured that we are COVID-compliant in our cleaning methods and building access, including implementation of contact tracing. His work with District Montessori School and other rental groups has enabled us to retain some building income during this critical time. He has improved the calendaring system and worked with Patricia Braley to research and set up a Google Voice phone tree system to meet staff and congregational needs during this time of remote work.

The Rev. **Patricia Catalano** moved her Centering Prayer group online and started meeting daily, from March 17th to Dec 31st. She met that group an astonishing 260 times! Patricia has been knitting together a community, generative and gifted work in 2020 that continues into 2021. She has also facilitated our Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles which is extraordinary work that is healing and bringing more people to work to heal and see their part in the healing. Patricia has also participated in worship, making pastoral calls and being a steady presence in our weekly clergy meetings.

The Rev. **Cindy Dopp** has been a pastoral presence all year long. She has also staffed the monthly Outreach meetings. Cindy and Josie organized the first calling of folks to see if anyone needed anything. She advocated for a phone number to be set up for folks to get a hold of us and has followed up and advocated for some of our elders who needed help. Cindy has also preached and coordinated the reading of the gospel for Sunday Service. She has taught in Christian Education and led two book groups.

The Rev. **Joe Hubbard,** our seminarian, has preached and taught this year and was ordained to the transitional deaconate in preparation for his ordination to the priesthood. We were blessed for his work on the "Jesus 2020" class-leading up to the election, and for his series of "Wrestling with the Angel." Joe is currently leading a book group. His studies at Virginia Theological Seminary have led him to an internship in Navajo land this past summer and he continues to study and be a part of our life here.

And, as for myself, I would say:

Michele Morgan's efforts since the start of the pandemic have enabled St. Mark's to be as fully functioning as possible while the building is closed. She has led the staff to successfully transition from in-person to online worship and parish activities, coordinated ongoing pastoral care, and kept the community safe by ensuring COVID compliance and setting strong boundaries around regathering. Michele worked with every full-time staff member to reorganize and prioritize their work to meet the needs of the community. She has made sure congregation members and leaders have access to online platforms like Zoom and supported volunteers to contribute in this new environment. Under Michele's leadership, and in large part because she covered the responsibilities of an associate, St. Mark's will finish 2020 in the black financially. As a preacher and pastor, she has encouraged the community of St. Mark's to adapt where possible, to remain engaged in the world, and to have faith during this time of uncertainty.

All of the parish work shifted, changed, and now looks like something new and unimaginable 51 weeks ago. It amazes me that we are connected and it amazes me how disconnected we

are. It keeps me up at night thinking of what I have missed, who I have upset, what I did not do.

My work as a priest has always been seeing and talking to people. Being disconnected from you has created a series of decisions I had to make up as I went along. It has been about trying to figure out a way to reach you. I know, in many ways, we have succeeded and, in other ways, we have failed.

I look forward to hiring an assistant rector in the coming months, I look forward to seeing you in person, soon, and I especially look forward to being a community that gathers around an altar.

It is an honor to be of service to you all.

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE RECTOR *position to be filled*

ADJUNCT CLERGY *The Rev. Patricia Catalano*

It continues to be a privilege for me to work with the people of St. Mark's. It's been more than three years now that I have been a member and almost three years serving as Adjunct Priest, a non-stipendiary position. I have continued to function in a variety of roles which include those of priest, spiritual guide, teacher and pastor. After the pandemic led to the shutting down of life as we knew it, with no prospects of going back to worship in our beautiful church for the foreseeable future, I initially thought that my role would probably be on hiatus for a long time but, thankfully, I was mistaken.

Here are the ministries that I have been involved with this past year:

Liturgical role: In February 2020, I presided and preached during the Candlemas Service. From March to June, I wasn't able to assist Michele with the liturgies because, out of an abundance of caution, she wanted to reduce everybody's exposure to the virus and strictly followed the recommendations issued. Notwithstanding, I taped a sermon at the end of June. In August, I began participating in the liturgy as preacher and presider and was able, on occasion, to replace Michele during the Sunday liturgy in the morning as well as at the 5 p.m. service. I preached six times this year and attended Sermon Seminar on Zoom. I have presided over the liturgy all the times I preached (except in June), as well as a few other times when I served as relief for Michele.I also presided at the 8 o'clock Eucharist the first Wednesday in Lent, 2020, right before the lockdown.

Other ministries:

Centering Prayer The Centering Prayer group started almost three years ago, May 2018. Initially, we met on the chancel Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. We started with a total of fifteen members and an average attendance of nine. After the pandemic forced us to be homebound, I quickly subscribed to Zoom and began offering CP every morning at 8 a.m. I sent invitations not only to the members of the original group but also to many others from St. Mark's and other circles. March 19, 2020 was the first day of Centering Prayer on Zoom. That day we had 14 people in attendance. It's been almost a year now and we are still going strong. The group has grown to forty-five (45) members which includes people who live not only in our area but in California, Maine, Mexico, and Washington state. Not everyone attends every day but members alternate in a very organic manner. The total number of people attending centering prayer from March 19/20 to February 25/21 is 4,257. The average daily attendance is 16.

We have created a prayerful community of contemplatives who engage in functional theology on an almost daily basis. Last year we read eight books as well as various articles and reflections. In addition, during a time that has been particularly hard on our

country and the world at large, there have been plenty of opportunities not only for me to be pastoral to many of our members but also for members to be pastoral to one another and to me.

Christian Education I led two book groups via Zoom. Both classes were on the same book, Waking Up White by Debby Irving. The first class was held June 10-July 29, 2020, for 8 sessions. Many of the people who attended the first book class also joined the Sacred Ground Circles because discussing this book gave them a taste for what the sacred ground series would mean in terms of deepening their understanding of white supremacy and white privilege in the United States. The second class ran for 7 sessions, October 2 to November 14.

Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles Two sacred ground circles (which eventually decided to merge into one) were started with a total of 21 participants. We met every other Wednesday from September 16-February 17. Our wrap-up session was Ash Wednesday. We concluded our circle with an interactive liturgy including heartfelt reflections by all in attendance. After ten classes of deep immersion into the history of our country and learning about how systemic racism and injustice are woven into the fabric of our lives, those of us who are white were humbled and chastened by the amount of work that still needs to be done to redress the inequities that persist. We had a diverse group of participants; we were interracial, of different ethnicities and from different walks of life. The bonds we formed will last forever and we all want to continue learning and sharing together into the future. This is the intent of the sacred ground circles: to foster the desire for more knowledge in matters of racial and social justice, and to hopefully translate that thirst into action.

The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series is part of the Becoming Beloved Community initiative of The Episcopal Church, a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is built around powerful documentary films and readings.

Other:

- My request to be formally received by Bishop Mariann Budde as a priest in EDOW was accepted. I'm now canonically resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
- Attended WIN meetings
- Joined the Incarceration Justice Ministry
- Attended weekly clergy and staff meetings

Deacon *The Rev. Cindy Dopp*

My official role is two-fold: to serve liturgically in worship services, and to serve as a 'bridge to the world', encouraging parishioners to reach out to respond to the needs of the outside world…both locally and beyond. The deacon's role also includes an expectation to assist the Rector with other duties, as assigned.
This past year has been unique because of the pandemic. My responsibilities have adapted to the best of my ability!

Liturgical role: As deacon, I am responsible for the following:

- Proclaiming the Gospel;
- Inviting the Confession;
- Setting the table;
- Passing the chalice;
- Giving the dismissal.
- Preaching: Lectionary-based sermons, in addition to Sermon Series participation.

Non-liturgical Activities:

Staff meetings (weekly)
Clergy meetings (weekly)
Outreach Committee meetings (monthly)
South DC Regional Clergy meetings (monthly)
Pastoral Care – In person visits, phone calls, notes, and email.
Caregivers Support Group – meets monthly
Book Study Groups;
Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson,
Son of Laughter by Frederick Buechner
Worked with parishioners on multiple ministries
Attended Sunday coffee hours and sermon seminars by zoom.

Director of Music *Jeff Kempskie*

The year 2020 presented numerous challenges to the music program. Concerts were inevitably cancelled, the choir was unable to sing together in person, and we had to figure out many new ways of doing many things. Despite the hardships, we adapted, learned new skills, kept the choir connected, and managed to continue creating beautiful music within our church community.

Chancel Choir The year started out normally with the choir singing an Evensong service in mid-February. When the pandemic hit, the group was preparing to sing a mass setting for Laetare Sunday. From mid-March through most of April, the choir did not sing or produce any music. We did continue to meet over Zoom during our regular Thursday night rehearsal time to socialize with one another and process everything that was taking place. The number of regular participants decreased from about 40-45 pre-pandemic to 20-25. By late April we had an octet record its first virtual choir anthem, an audio-only setting of 'The Lord Is My Shepherd'. In May, a quartet recorded the Latin motet "O Rex Gloriae" followed by full choir anthems for both Pentecost and Trinity Sunday: the spiritual "I'm Gonna Sing" and an anthem titled "Hymn to the Trinity." The first virtual choir anthem with video, 'Garden Hymn', was produced by Jeff in July. For the next few months, the group recorded anthems every 2-3 weeks. In mid-October, several members of the choir met up, socially distanced (with masks) at Garfield Park to greet one another and to celebrate Jeff's 10 years as music director at St. Mark's.

Things picked up for the choir in late November as we produced numerous anthems and hymn recordings for the Advent Lessons & Carols service and, soon thereafter, the Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve services. Taking advantage of the unique benefits of recording virtually, two chamber groups recorded anthems for the two Sundays following Christmas, something that would not normally have been possible. In January, we relaxed a bit and went back to producing an anthem every 2-3 weeks. Due to the tremendous workload involved, we chose not to produce an evensong service in February, 2021. Despite its many challenges, the choir received a few unexpected benefits from this most unusual year. Among other things, we improved our skills with technology, we learned all the ins and outs of recording as a virtual choir, and we even learned each other's names better because of Zoom!

Boys & Girls Choir Just as our newly-hired director Kerry Court had completed a few rehearsals with the Boys & Girls Choir the shutdown took place. For various reasons we chose not to pursue any virtual activities with the group until November. It was then that Kerry led some Zoom rehearsals and prepared a handful of young singers on two Christmas carols and an anthem for the Christmas Pageant service, "Mary Rocking." We look forward to the time when this choir can resume rehearsing together in person again.

Soloists (*a new category; something I think we needed the past year]* With the choir unable to sing for worship services, the decision was made to have individual choir members serve as soloists for the Sunday morning live-streamed services. Marika Klein was the soloist from late March through May, then Lou Bayard sang for several weeks followed by Charmian Crawford, Marge Wellman, Katherine Buchanan, and Anjuli Das for various periods of time. Many thanks to these individuals for their valuable contributions.

Handbell Choir This group has been on hiatus this past year due to the pandemic but has occasionally kept in touch via email.

Instruments & Equipment The 1959 Holtkamp organ remains in good working order, only requiring its twice annual tuning over the course of the year. The swell shade motor, which moves the wooden shades closest to the high altar (enabling gradual changes in volume), has begun to noticeably deteriorate and will need replacement soon. The grand piano in the nave was used frequently and tuned regularly. Some maintenance was performed to quiet the damper pedal. The Baxter Hall and Music Studio pianos were not used. The church's three digital pianos remain in satisfactory condition. The handbells were professionally serviced just two days prior to the start of the pandemic. The harpsichord was not used and is in need of a string replacement. The church purchased a new laptop for Jeff in late October to assist in the production of virtual choir videos.

Director Of Youth And Family Ministries *Caleb Nelson Amaker*
St. Mark's Youth and Family Ministry has had an eventful year. During the pandemic lockdown, YFM took on two major tasks: the first was to shift away from our previous method of programming to meet the needs of at home families; the second was to continue a review of our program with the help of Ministry Architects, work that began January 2020.

February 2020, after instruction, six middle and high school students were confirmed at St. Mark's. In March, when lockdown began and church programs were cancelled, our weekly newsletter became the venue to keep families engaged and connect them with needed resources. We also created, sought out and curated a weekly list of COVID-19 safe activities for families to do at home. We included coloring pages matching the Sunday lectionary and a script for doing Children's Chapel at home. Following the death of George Floyd, we sent suggested books and conversation guides to help families discuss the protests and the history of racism in America. After the attack on the Capitol building, we sent slides, lesson plans, and conversation guides gathered by area schools to our Christian Education leaders, teachers, and parents and families.

In addition to connecting families with existing resources, we also began to create our own content. Beginning April 1, 2020 we began a short-story-based podcast to send to families for a bedtime routine. We contacted the publisher and distributor of our most-used story Bible in order to receive permission to record its content and began to email episodes (one of their stipulations was that we keep distribution local), averaging just over five minutes were sent out Monday through Saturday. I crafted each episode to include a story, some discussion questions and a prayer and recorded a majority of the episodes with assistance from several community members and students. As of February 2021, 134 episodes have been produced.

In May 2020, we began a weekly video series titled, "Growing with God." Michele and I lead a conversation about a Bible story for younger viewers. In each episode, we read the story, define key vocabulary and concepts, and respond to discussion questions. Our first episode was posted to Facebook on May 22 and, as of February 28,2021 we have produced 39 episodes.

For Advent and Christmas, we adjusted existing programs for use at home. Under the guidance of Doris Burton, we purchased Advent wreath supplies and assembled more than 50

Advent kits to be given out. Each included a wreath, candles, lyrics for Christmas hymns, and a family-friendly devotional. Kits were distributed from Baxter Hall on November 21, and November 28. In September 2020, Michele, Tracy Councill, Jeff Kempskie, and I began meeting to create a plan for the Christmas pageant. Our goal was to have a pageant that would be meaningful to the congregation but also allow students to participate from home. Our script was adapted from one written by All Saints' Episcopal+Chicago, and we added directions for at-home sections. The pageant included 40 participants who recorded themselves from their homes and was edited by Eliza Wapner.

We opted against doing a virtual version of Children's Chapel or other virtual versions of our programs for 6 year-olds and younger. The feedback we received from parents was that kids had more than enough screen time.

In addition to seeking to address lockdown needs, this year also saw the continuation of our five-year program review in accordance with the 2014 ministry report. Prior to 2020, the Vestry approved a contract with Ministry Architects as consultants for the restructuring of Youth and Family ministry. In May. 2020 we surveyed members of the congregation to learn of their experience with YFM. In August, we discussed the many assets of our program and outlined some goals for the future. These include reimagined middle and high school programming, a process to keep in touch with more families, and continuing to find ways for our children and youth to be involved in the greater St. Mark's community.

We established a team of St. Mark's members to do the work of renovating our program and related systems. The team consisted of Paul Albergo, Kris Humphrey, Mary Thuell, and Shay Waye. Together, we planned and scheduled non-Sunday morning youth events incorporating different meeting locations, formats, and days/times. We held a pumpkin painting session in the courtyard in October, led a virtual game show challenge, and a new event called Culture Club wherein students share pictures, videos and songs from pop culture, and establish connections with theological themes. These events were evaluated, and Culture Club and Art in the Garden were chosen to be recur monthly.

In addition, the renovation team devised a new communication plan for families and students, including personalized birthday and Christmas cards. We wrote job descriptions for volunteer positions. We devised a review process for current programs and new ideas. We began work on a revised mission statement, and drafting three-year goals for our program. We also brainstormed, selecting concrete ways for children and youth to be more active and visible in the larger church through worship services and intergenerational gatherings. Planning for these engagements has begun and will continue in 2020.

One of the main difficulties faced by the children and youth ministries was adjusting to the changing ways that people communicated during lockdown. When Youth and Family Ministries has in-person events, there is immediate feedback—youth and children are vocal about their experiences and parents share the lasting impressions that go home with them. Many of our families, particularly those with small children, were in a position where all of their focus and energy went to reestablishing their household norms and routines. This meant that our regular stream of feedback became more concentrated and isolated. We also found it more difficult to get word out of our events and progress. In the first 6 months of lockdown, our newsletter went from approximately 35% engagement to 45% engagement. However, things like event registrations and our survey required more email communication before receiving response. Similarly, we found most people to be a bit slower in responding to emails than before lockdown.

We also had some difficulty in learning how to best engage with different age groups. We heard, with some consistency, from parents that preschool and elementary students were not particularly interested in virtual activities. In October, we planned a virtual Halloween party and, although we received several emails thanking us for our efforts, most parents let us know that it was not something the smaller children were interested in. For Advent and Christmas we sought to make sure that our activities could be done independently and would be a big return on a short- time investment.

As Director of Youth and Family Ministries, I lead in each decision-making process. Our Christmas pageant was written by Rev. Morgan,Tracy Councill, and me, with music and lyric videos recorded by Jeff Kempskie and video edited by Eliza Wapner. Many of the programs and rebuilding of protocols and program infrastructure included the Youth and Family Ministries Renovation Team: Paul Albergo, Kris Humphrey, Mary Thuell and Shay Waye. We were assisted by our Ministry Architects consultant, Sean Williams.



LEGACY LIONS

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

Other parishioners have committed to a legacy gift but have asked to remain anonymous

A Note from the Editor (for posterity)

A suggestion of including the photo below (a 'screenshot', a photo of a computer screen during a Zoom meeting) reminded the editor that it behoves her to provide an explanation of Zoom:

"Zoom" is an internet site that allows meetings/gatherings/classes to be held 'on line' so leader and participant can see and talk to one another. While there is a slight time-lag for sound and the visual not always of the best quality, the program has provided us with an infinitely better way of communicating than phone call, letter, or email, and, most important, seeing one another during the pandemic. The program was used in business, schools, churches, dance/exercise classes, family 'reunions', and numerous other situations.

This program did not work for choruses so our Director of Music, Jeff Kempskie, used a different format to create the 'virtual choir' that proved to be exceedingly impressive and popular despite the hours of work on his part it required.

The photo below was provided by Maureen Shea (upper left) taken during a zoom meeting of the Middle East Working Group. Members pictured are: (top, l-r) Maureen Shea, Mandy Paust,Mary Neznek; (2nd row, L-R): Jennifer Cate, Christopher Herman, Karen Getman.



Another note from the Editor: This is our (and my) 12th Annual Report to the Parish. For the past 11 years, I have worked in MS Publisher and found it a very enjoyable experience, even looking forward to finding fun bits to lighten a staid report (Rev. Paul Abernathy never noticed the photo of the 5 pillars is from his alma mater, Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri). This year, because we have new copiers that do not read Publisher, the report is in Google Docs which I have not yet mastered (let alone learned to enjoy). Katherine Phillson, our bulletin coordinator, helped with the most challenging, for which I am grateful. Please accept my apology for the errors you may find as I work my way through this new format.



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 Burton, editor