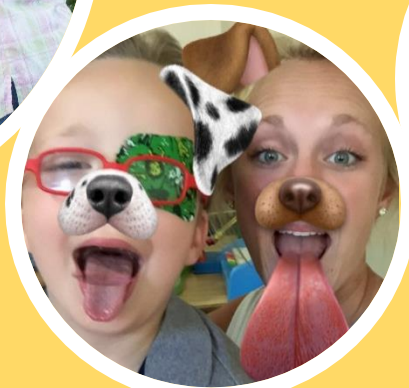


# St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report 2016

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## St. Mark's 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 22nd 2017

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules
5. Reading of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
6. Appointment of Tellers
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls
9. Clergy Report
10. Committee Reports
11. Finances
12. Closing of Polls
13. Report from the Tellers
14. Old Business
15. New Business
16. Closing Prayer
17. Adjournment

## The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

[www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org)



The Rt. Rev. Mark  
Hollingsworth, Jr.  
*Bishop of Ohio*  
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The Rt. Rev. William D.  
Persell  
*Bishop of Chicago, Retired*  
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The Rt. Rev. Arthur B.  
Williams, Jr.  
*Bishop Suffragan of Ohio,  
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The Rev. Percy Grant  
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Eva Cole  
*Administrative Assistant*  
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The Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert  
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The Rev. Brad Purdom  
*Canon for Congregations*  
Email  
216-774-0452



The Rev. Vincent Black  
*Canon for Christian  
Formation*  
Email  
216-774-0453

**Current Continuing Vestry Members for 2017 (& ending term)**

Ten Gall	2018
Gary Giammarco	2018
Kathy Kennedy	2018
Jane King	2018
Bruce Hixon	2019
Kate Mozingo	2019
Charlie Kiesling	2019
Beth Crawl	2019

**Outgoing Vestry Members, Class of 2014:**

Dave Thorley-Sr. Warden  
Caroline Willoughby  
Joe Hoot  
Geoff Gordon

**Staff and Ministry Leaders**

W. Robert Morrison: Organist/Choirmaster  
Sue Little: Episcopal Church Women President  
Bruce Hixon: Head Lay Reader  
Gary Giammarco: Acolyte Advisor  
Charlie Kiesling: Treasurer  
Joe Hoot: Building & Grounds  
Sandy Paradis & Jan Hudson: Puppet Directors  
Carol Popovich and Susie Hines: Wedding Coordinators  
Riley Kiesling: Nursery Attendant  
Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager

**Vestry Candidates:**

For 3 Year Terms—

Derek Gordon

Sara Strattan

Christy Thorley

Rhonda Warren

For 1 Year Term—

Kirk Bletzacker

**2016 Parish Services – Statistics:**

Total attendance at all services: 5,358

Easter attendance: 142

Christmas attendance: 190

Burials: 4 (Georgeene Summers, Linda Jaeb, Jack Brehany, Billie Todoran)

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Average Sunday attendance: 96

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**January 24, 2016**

**Vestry Attendees:** Fr. Berg, Dave Thorley, Emily Gordon, Ten Gall, Tom Temelkoff, Kathy Kennedy, Joe Hoot, Dick Croasdaile, Gary Giammarco, Caroline Willoughby

**Absent:** Alex Violand

1. **Call to Order** – 11:31am
2. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Berg opened with a prayer.
3. **Determination of a Quorum** – it was so determined
4. **Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules** – Fr. Berg explained the rules including that there would be 30 minutes for discussion and a motion would need to be made for an extended time frame. All parishioners who wish to speak are to go to the microphone. Derek Gordon motioned to accept the rules and time allotments, Rick Werren seconded, motion carries.
5. **Reading of 2015 Annual Meeting minutes** – they could not be located.
6. **Appointment of Tellers** – Alex Korosi, Bob Kennedy, Bob Kocab and Mike Ryan were appointed tellers.
7. **Report of the Nominating Committee** – Fr. Berg, Dave Thorley and Emily Gordon spoke to the Vestry nominees in December. This year in addition to the 4, usual 3-year terms, there is also a 1-year term and a 2-year term that need to be filled. Geoff Gordon and Jane King are the candidates for the 1- and 2-year term, respectively. Kate Mozingo, Rhonda Warren, Charlie Kiesling, Bruce Hixon, Tony Keenan, Don Lovgren, Beth Crowl and Anne Coen are the nominees for the 3-year terms.
8. **Opening of Polls** – Ballots were handed out at 11:37am. Polls to remain open for 30 minutes.
9. **Clergy Report** – Fr. Berg read from Luke 4 (the Gospel of the day) to relate to our mission at St. Mark's. He also reminded attendees that the full clergy report can be found in the annual report booklet.
10. **Committee Reports (please see reports in printed Annual Report)**
  - a. **Outreach** – Sue Little
    - i. A meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17.
    - ii. Outreach is successful with short-range projects, struggles with long term.
11. **Finances** –
  - a. Charlie Kiesling (treasurer) opened his report with a prayer, and thanked the following: Carol Popovich and the Fellowship committee, the Brewmeisters, Chuck Violand and MaryAnn Kiesling.
  - b. Income vs Expenses was reviewed (pg. 19)
  - c. Cash vs Investments was reviewed (pg. 20)
    - i. A cash reserves account of \$25,000 was closed in 2015.
  - d. Pledge recap (pg. 21)
  - e. Sustainability / Collaboration update (pg. 21-22)
12. **Closing of Polls**
13. **Old Business**
  - a. Emilie Korosi asked why there was no printed Altar Guild report given. Addendums can be sent with the minutes.
14. **New Business**

- a. Outgoing Vestry was recognized – Emily Gordon, Alex Violand, Dick Croasdaile, and Tom Temelkoff.
- b. John Willoughby commended Charlie Kiesling on his initiative (see Collaboration update on pg. 21-22) *\*Note: this initiative became JumpStart/Revitalize Ohio.*
- c. Joe Hoot reemphasizes sharing and talking amongst ourselves as a St. Mark's family.
- d. Tom Turner suggests reporting to the congregation in between initiative meetings.
- e. Judy Hixon suggests sharing what other churches are doing (this is on the agenda for a meeting on Feb. 20).
- f. Rick Werren suggests taking less time to move forward – 2 years can easily get pushed longer and longer. Charlie Kiesling says accountability to ourselves and to each other will take time.
- g. Ron Brookes reminded everyone that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 11am, St. Paul's serves lunch to 1500 families, and many St. Mark's members are already involved. Also the first Wednesday of each month is the Men's Prayer Breakfast.

**15. Report from the Tellers**

- a. One Year Term – Geoff Gordon
- b. Two Year Term – Jane King
- c. Three Year Term – Charlie Kiesling, Bruce Hixon, Beth Crawl and after a tie breaker, Kate Mozingo

**16. Closing Prayer**

17. **Adjournment** – Judy Hixon moves to adjourn at 12:41pm, Pam McCarthy seconds.

# REPORTS

## Rector's Annual Report for 2016

Annual Meeting – January 22, 2017

Our mission: *We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.*

Greetings to you in the season of Epiphany. This is the season when the light of God is revealed to the nations through the shining of a star. Magi from the East journey to find the light of God in the most unexpected of places – in a tiny baby that is our Lord Jesus. And so it is fitting, then, that as we see the lengthening of the daylight, we work toward seeing God's light, shining it, and sharing it.

In our church and in the ministry we share at St. Mark's, we are meant to notice those points of light. A thousand times over, we're meant to know in them the faithfulness of our God who shines our way before us. Part of my duty is to help position us to be able to see and follow where God's light leads us.

During 2016, we have had many of those occasions to follow the star toward where Jesus is. I think of the many occasions of Christian formation that we have shared: from the Rule of Life exercises and reflections during Lent, to the women's retreat, the Sunday school conversations you have had with your children as I did with mine. There were opportunities for refreshing our minds in the history and structure of the Episcopal Church, prior to our bishop's visit, early in the year. Then, what began as a four-week Advent study has blossomed into much more: our reading the Bible again together with fresh lenses. Many more of these kinds of prayerful studies will certainly follow. Having between 10-15 of you attend on weeknights in Advent definitely says something of whose light we share.

Many times throughout the year, we also had the opportunities to extend our hospitality and welcome. As in past years, we held Election Day bake sales – both in March and again in November. We met many of the attendees at the Stark County Fair, with our feeding/changing station and kids' play area. We welcomed several friends and neighbors for a rousing get-together during our Oktoberfest. And in a first for us, we pulled off a successful craft fair that brought nearly 30 vendors to our building. Not only did they sell their wares, but we also continued building relationships and extending a sense of welcome to many outside our faith community.

With an eye toward the church's future, we engaged with Revitalize Ohio, an effort coordinated by the Diocese of Ohio and shared with several of our area Episcopal churches. Both during the shared meetings and in our own St. Mark's team meetings, several possible areas of focus began to emerge for us. These included: invitable events, increased community engagement, stewardship of all our resources (not just financial ones), and opportunities for spiritual growth.

We expanded our role in developing a partnership with Schreiber Elementary School. Children's families who had been receiving grocery items from us during the school year were also provided some food assistance during the summer. What was really inspiring to see was the variety of persons who began to be involved with this ministry – if even only once or twice.

Quite possibly one of the high points of the year for me was attending the Episcopal Church's Evangelism Matters conference in Texas during November. For many of us, 'evangelism' may not be the most comfortable of words. However, if we as followers of Jesus are to live as though our God has anything to say in our broken world, we must begin to take evangelism seriously. We must learn and practice the ways of telling others why following Jesus matters to each of us. I promise that there is great joy to be had in it – especially when 400+ Episcopalians gather during the weekend before Thanksgiving to learn about it!

If evangelism is a bit frightening for us at times, it's important to remember the Bible's own witness. Throughout the scriptures, God reminds his people, through various means, not to fear. Do not be afraid, we're told – over and over. I think it's clear why we're told this so many times – and that's because it's natural to do so. But the Lord has continually provided and delivered his people. From the crushing sale of Joseph into slavery in Egypt in Genesis, to the crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land. From the disciples huddled together in the locked room after Jesus's Resurrection, though absent Thomas, to the full inclusion of Gentiles into the fellowship of those called 'Christian'... We have good reason to trust our God when we're told, "Do not fear!" Look at how it turned out for those persons whose stories we read in the scriptures. God was with them, and God's light shone the way.

In that spirit, I believe we're being asked to embark on a project of dramatic proportions. The project of which I speak is, as you know, the possibility of sharing and leasing a portion of our building to a private, Christian school. The presence of the school would not only bring some significant net income, but it would bring a lively spirit to our building during the week. It would say to others in our community, "We are willing to partner with you. We are helping you to make a better world, in God's name." By the time you read this, most of you will have had a chance to attend one of our informational meetings about the project.

We hope to have a firm commitment from all parties by late March. For this to proceed, God's hand will certainly need to be shining on our path. From signing on the dotted line until parents dropping off their children will be a period of a scant five months. Pray for God's guiding light upon us and upon the school! No doubt, this project will bring much change. We will need to adapt in the ways we use our space, and we will need to be creative in working through the conflicts that will inevitably arise. But I believe that we are up to the challenge and we will rise to it.

We all know there are many concerns that we face as the family of St. Mark's. Budgets are tight. We are a smaller family than we once were. Some of our friends now sing God's praises on a distant shore, in God's greater light. But within this family, tremendous things are possible, in God's name. We are blessed with the presence of all of you, the talents and expertise you bring and share, and the time and commitment and love for God and one another that is evident in this fellowship each and every day.

So I urge you to trust. First, trust that God has our back. As his people in this time and this place, we are no different from the faithful of God in other ages. So when we hear those words, "Do not fear," take them to heart. Really. And when new, fresh ideas emerge for acts of evangelism, acts of compassion, acts of loving service, trust those too. Trust the messengers of those inspired thoughts. If we are inspired by God – that is, following the one we call Lord, listening, watching for where his light shines – then we cannot help but step forward in faith. If we believe what we say we believe,

then we will see those moments of God's light shining through us and shining in us. And we will share that light. For that is what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and that is what it means to trust him, and one another, in this corner of God's kingdom.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dustin D. Berg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Berg+

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## Sr. Warden's Report 2016

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,  
stand firm. Nothing move you. Always  
give yourself fully to the work of the  
Lord, because you know your labor  
is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15: 5-8

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to serve on your vestry and honored to have been your Senior Warden these past three years. I thank Dustin for that opportunity and have enjoyed our lunches and conversations immensely. Dustin, I hope that I have served you well.

To my special family, you have a very talented and hardworking vestry. We faced challenges during the year as well as opportunities. The challenge that we continue to face is with our finances.

In 2012, Father Berg wrote the following:

“We are far from alone among other Episcopal churches in declining involvement and shrinking budgets. However, a Church is not the Church that continues to cut budgets in order to “maintain.” Instead, the Church grows. It steps out in faith for the sake of growing the Kingdom of God, for our world and specifically in this corner of it... Some of these risks we will need to take will make us uncomfortable. They will force us to be creative.”

In October, 2015, a number of us from the parish attended “Jumpstart Ohio”. This was a conference sponsored by the diocese in which all parishes in attendance had financial concerns regarding their future viability. One of many things that I took away from this conference centered around finding creative ways to put our building to better use.

As we are all aware, our building is underutilized. A creative opportunity has come our way and has begun to gather momentum.



A Christian-inspired non-profit school has approached St. Mark's asking to lease the church for their school. This is what Father Berg meant when he said that a church steps out in faith for the sake of growing. This opportunity will turn our world, as we know it at St. Mark's, upside down. It will take us out of our comfort zone, as it already has for me.

But, is that a bad thing? Have we become complacent? I know that we are not comfortable with the current state of our finances. This is an opportunity that we, as a parish family, need to embrace and explore. None of us knows if this will become a reality, but we need to willingly adapt.

President Jimmy Carter has stated:

“I hate to see complacency in our lives when it's directly contrary to the teaching of Christ.”

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays stated:

“The tragedy of life is often not in our failure but rather in our complacency; not in our doing too much, but rather in our doing too little; not in living above our ability, but rather in living below our capabilities.”

Will we at St. Mark's live below our capabilities. Join me in embracing this opportunity.

Some parish meetings have been held with more to come to explain the project and answer questions. To date they have been well received. However, if at any time, you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Father Berg, your vestry or myself. We will do our best to keep you informed as we move forward.

I would also like to thank my vestry classmates Joe, Caroline, plus the late addition of Geoff. They have been a pleasure to work with. I would like to think that we have served you well.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Dave Thorley

### Puppet Ministry Report for 2016

Our St. Mark's puppet gang is still providing a way for our youth, sixth grade through high school, with a way to enhance their faith. It also provides heartwarming shows for the congregations to enjoy at Christmas and in the spring. The Sunday school also get a chance to be a part of the Christmas show.

The spring show was “St. Mark's Idol” and a good character won, of course.

Our Christmas show was “Angel Alert”. This show was all about the preparations that the angels made before Jesus was born. There was an underlying story about two young angels who were thought to be naughty but turned out to be heroes in getting the Bethlehem star into the sky.

We have in our group Nathaniel Clark, Alexis Wilson, Colin Jenkins, Lauren Hoot, Bradley Mull, Skyler Hudson, Fletcher Clark, and Brooks Jenkins. Eight wonderful puppeteers make our puppets come alive. The ECW supports the puppet gag by giving us \$300 each year to operate. These are our expenses this year:

Neon poster board:	\$27.88
Black Foam Board:	\$36.38
Blinking Lights:	\$8.00
2 New Black Lights:	\$63.88
Glass Clear Lights:	\$22.11
<hr/>	
Total:	\$158.25

After the Christmas program we served “Angel cocoa” and “Bethlehem Star Cookies” for all to enjoy. Jan and I love working with the youth and plan to continue our program as long as we have students to be puppeteers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Paradis and Jan Hudson

### Cluster Dinner Report for 2016

Cluster Dinners are a relaxed, social opportunity for fellowship and dining. Adults, singles or couples, sign up and are assigned to groups of 8-11. Recently there were more men at the dinners than women! A beginning host for each group offers to arrange the first date and potluck menu. The groups meet once a month for 3 months; then the group members are reshuffled into new groups. Most gatherings are in homes for dinner, but a few times a group has met in local restaurants. Brunch after church is a good time to get together, too. Participants have become well acquainted with each other, and therefore, are able to care about and for each other. The opening of one’s home is an act of giving/hospitality; and those who visit in homes practice the art of receiving. The Cluster Dinners have been a means of parish building through fellowship.

A Biblical dimension was added during the most recent dinners. People were asked to bring a Bible to dinner, as well as their potluck contribution. Even though carrying a Bible may not be an Episcopal “thing”, everyone brought one! The scripture Hebrews 11:1 was suggested during a combined meeting of Revitalize Ohio and the Growth Committee. It was interesting to compare translations as well as to participate in lively discussions. The after dinner conversation is a good way to share our individual spiritual journeys and faith.

Perhaps going forward, people could bring their favorite or most meaningful scripture verse/s.

The groups will be taking a hiatus during the winter. A sign up sheet will be posted in April so the groups can resume beginning in May.

Respectfully submitted,  
MaryAnn Kiesling, Chairperson

### Acolyte Report for 2016

St. Mark's acolytes were alive and well during the 2016 church year. They continue to demonstrate an exemplary work ethic and showcase their skills each Sunday.

Our acolytes appreciate the origins of this ministry—which began in the third century—and aspire to continue these traditions into the 21st century and beyond. Our acolytes participated in approximately 110 services this past year. Braving cold, rain, snow, and ice, St. Mark's acolytes show up every Sunday to serve.

The 2016 St. Mark's acolytes were: Nathaniel Clark, Colin Jenkins, Alexis Wilson, Lauren Hoot, Susie Hines, Sharon Ryan, Delaney Ryan, Charlie Kiesling, Joe Hoot, Lesley Kiesling, Jason Crawl, Marilyn Thorp, and Karen Violand. We also want to thank Rachel Crawl for retuning to help us on Christmas Eve.

I thank all the parents who bring young acolytes early when scheduled to serve on Sundays. In 2017, we only have one graduating senior, Nathaniel Clark. He will be heading off to college in the fall.

As always, I welcome anyone (seventh grade or higher) who is interested in serving as an acolyte.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary L. Giammarco  
Acolyte Advisor

### Publicity & Social Media Report 2016

In a sustained effort to keep St. Mark's in the public eye, press releases for events were sent to all of our major neighboring newspapers by both myself and Pam McCarthy. All events were also publicized via our social media channels, and a continued effort was made to network with various online resources to promote the church and events. We have also heavily networked with other area and national episcopal churches, in addition to requesting the Diocese of Ohio social media channels to promote our events.

We have amplified our paid for advertising on our social media channels. Facebook yields the highest results and impact. We hope to further increase these advertisements in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Kuceyeski

### Fellowship Report for 2016

February started off with the pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

We began our Lenten Potluck Suppers and Lenten Sessions. In March we hosted a dinner/concert. Held a bake sale on voting day. Our Palm Sunday Brunch started the Holy Week off, followed by Maundy Thursday Potluck and Easter Vigil.

We hosted a fund raiser for Schriever elementary, and our church picnic was held in July.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup> we held our fair booth, which was a success and greatly appreciated by many. St. Tim's and Trinity helped man the booths. We are hopefully they will continue this year. In September we attended Schreiber's open house and furnished a meal for any and all who attended. The Month of October was very busy with Oktoberfest, followed by our first ever craft show.

November started with our All Saints Brunch followed by our voting day bake sale.

December started with a luncheon for the Revitalize Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Popovich

### Aluminum Can Annual Report 2016

Aluminum cans are collected in the shed at the side of the downstairs back entrance. These are retrieved and taken to the scrap yard roughly every quarter. Money received is then turned into the Church Treasurer.

Please continue to support this cause for the church and our environment which contributes to recycling. It is a simple and easy way to dispose of your aluminum cans.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kirk Bletzacker

### CODE WARM Annual Report 2016

This past year, Bradley Mull, aged 11, approached Father Berg with the idea of collecting blankets for the homeless and needy in the greater Canton area. Father Berg agreed that this was indeed a worthy outreach effort. Bradley then approached the congregation for help, and the parishioners enthusiastically supported the project from there. Bradley named the project CODE WARM and the people who helped him as Bradley's Blanket Brigade.

This past winter, Bradley's Blanket Brigade collected over 400 blankets, 200 coats, and a total over of over \$20,000 of items, goods, and donations. Of that grand total, almost 35% of the blankets, hats, coats, scarves, and gloves came from St. Mark's parishioners.

Donated items primarily went to the Hope Outreach Ministries, located on Mahoning Road near downtown Canton. Hope Outreach is a 501(c)3 grass roots, faith-based organization that serves many people who are Canton's poorest-of-the-poor. According to Pastor Marilyn Roman, over 30% of the people who come in for a hot meal and free clothing are homeless. A recent local study of Stark County shows that almost 1500 people were considered "homeless" last year, including men, women and children. Also receiving items from CODE WARM were Turnaround Community Outreach and the Goodwill.

This was another excellent collaborative effort by St. Mark's to reach out to those in need in the greater community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Mull

### Community Harvest Report for 2016

Community Harvest has served Stark County as a sustainable, community-led solution to fight both food waste and hunger in our community since 1989. As the only prepared and perishable food rescue program in NE Ohio, Community Harvest is now a "link" for nearly 100 local restaurants, caterers, grocery stores, farmers, cafeterias, and hospital kitchens to donate their unused, healthy food that would otherwise be discarded. Community Harvest then delivers the food, at no cost, to over 30 community-based organizations in Stark County. Last year, Community Harvest rescued over \$1.5 million in food and delivered approximately 80,000 meals per month to our hungry neighbors in Stark County.

St. Mark's has been a proud partner with Community Harvest for 10 years, participating in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. During that time, St. Mark's and its parishioners have contributed over \$10,000, making it one of the highest supporting churches in the area. Community Harvest has also collaborated with St. Mark's and St. Paul's on the annual Community Thanksgiving Food Baskets Project, providing canned goods and transportation for the effort.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Mull

### Building & Grounds Report 2016

We had our issues like any of us would have with our own homes. Leaky roof, heating & cooling problems these are normal and will always come up from time to time. Want to say a special thanks to Bob Kennedy & Kirk Bletzacker the two of them painted outside this year. The south facing wall above the under croft. The east facing wall & crosses as well as the doors. Great work guys. Bob also moved gravel into the Betty Fortney Sanctuary in the spring. The parking lot was sealed late in the year. We had a member of the congregation donate taking down a dead tree. We also had some trees trimmed back. We have some exciting news with the building uses this coming year. As you all know by now the vestry is in talks with a local school to use our unused space. As this continues we will need help cleaning up class rooms & storage space. Also if you haven't been to our website in a while you need to check it out! [www.stmarks-canton.org](http://www.stmarks-canton.org) Someone I won't mention Katie's name here but it looks GREAT!

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Hoot

### Lay Readers and Eucharistic Visitors Report 2016

St. Mark's continues to be well served by a dedicated group of laypersons serving as Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors. We are pleased to announce that Rhonda Warren has joined us this past year as a Eucharistic Minister. It is my hope that others will want to join in this important and immensely rewarding ministry, especially in the 8AM congregation.

Our Eucharistic Visitors, with the exception of Tom Turner in his ministry at Mercy Medical Center, have not been very active this year. We should, during the course of 2017, do a through review of this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hixon  
Head Lay Reader

### Lazarus Committee Report 2016: Columbarium

The Columbarium is a wonderful gift that present and past parishioners have given to the St. Marks Family. Many parishioners have reserved a place for themselves and their immediate families. The cost today is \$1000. This covers the niche, maintenance and the gold lettering. Not only is this considered a bargain in funeral costs, it eliminates much worry and expense for those who come behind us. There are many spaces available. Niches are sold as single units and are designed to accommodate both husband's and wife's ashes (if care is taken selecting the urn). Engraving is a standard design for all niches and there are no variations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Kiesling

### Parish Musician's 2016 Report

In my nineteenth year as Parish Musician here, I, once again, as last year, affirm the congenial atmosphere at St. Mark's with a priest not only gifted with liturgical skills but also comfortable at keyboard and flute - and volunteers of exceptional ability in singing, ringing, and playing. Our computer specialist office manager Katie Kuceyeski has been a blessing in layout and design of the musical portions of our publications.

Highlights: Organ duets with Father Berg at Christmas and Easter; Cleveland bagpiper Donald Willis at Easter; hymn sing in March with our choir and Valley Community Church choir with Jackson

Carruthers; volunteer pianist Ron Hill, a retired church/school musician who has brought his keyboard synthesizer into the sanctuary and plays a harpsichord effect during communion; our resident timpanist member John Gregory, percussion major in college and bandmaster at Marlinton using Canton Concert Band drums; guest appearances by a number of musical friends; dinner with our great Chef Carol and theater organ program based on my Palace Theater appearance in June. I attended a four-day masterclass in Sarasota FL with Maestro Hector Olivera who, in 2012, designed a sound module for our organ which has made available several hundred new voice possibilities.

Our good and faithful singer Barbara Siegfried has moved to Columbus. The choir gave her a send-off at my house with Father Berg conducting an evensong.

Our roster: Sandi Kaustinen, Frances Swinehart, Leslie Redmon, Beck Rand (librarian - whose contribution in keeping our hundreds of anthem titles in good order is amazing), Pam McCarthy, Caroline Willoughby, Cantor Ken Jaeb, Dr. Norman Warren, Chuck Violand, Barrie Thorp, Louise Moore, John Werren, and Robert Karl Bortz.

Our handbells/chimes have been played by Louise Moore, Karen, Adrienne, and Moose Violand, Kathy Kennedy, Tom, Tim, and Jeff Turner, and members of the Gordon family.

In a day when traditional worship has given way to less formal styles, we have attempted to maintain a high level of excellence that is also accessible to all.

It is rewarding to me that God has given me strength to continue my calling in this portion of His vineyard known as St. Mark's

Respectfully submitted, W. Robert Morrison

### Prayer Chain Report 2016

Thank you Prayer Warriors for your dedication and support during 2016.

If I didn't already realize the power of our collective prayers, I learned it first-hand this year.

### **Praying It Forward in 2017**

Plug into the Power of Prayer!

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Gordon

### Growth Committee Annual Report 2016

The Growth Committee met 5 times in 2016 and participated in one joint meeting with the Revitalize Ohio Committee. The focus for 2016 was to discuss and identify ways to promote church growth through "inviteable" events and by reviewing the "Grow My Church" Hospitality DVD. Projects were identified which would support current members and to welcome visitors and newcomers. The committee did not necessarily execute them but coordinated the ideas with other related committees. In an effort to get to know the other Episcopal Churches in our Revitalize Ohio group, a suggestion

was made to invite them to our outdoor evening worship and potluck dinner. The event was coordinated by the Fellowship Committee and the Growth Committee and 9 parishioners from our sister churches attended along with about 36 St. Mark's members. An effort was also made to publish church news and activities from other churches in our weekly newsletter and vice versa. The hope is to build synergy by working with our sister churches in order to build enthusiasm and participation with each other's established programs.

Activity for 2016 - parish bridges: note cards sent to parishioners , supported the Stark County Fair Booth and extended invitations for other churches to participate, supported the Fall Craft Show, Karen and Ten helped Katie make photo boards to be displayed during the Election Bake Sale, reviewed Hospitality DVD from Grow My Church and evaluated ways to incorporate the suggestions with what we currently do to welcome Newcomers, attended a joint meeting with the Revitalize Ohio team to learn about "inviteable" events , ongoing discussions of ideas for parish activities that would interest newcomers , and recruitment of greeters to welcome folks to the services.

Greeters always needed for 10 o'clock service. All you provide are a handshake and a smile!  
Parish Bridges: beginning in 2014, it was noticed that several parishioners had been "missing in the pews", for any number of reasons. In an effort to let folks know that they are remembered as part of St. Mark's family, notecards are mailed to them. The mailings occur about 4 times a year, and not during a "holiday" week. The notecards simply state that the family of St. Mark's is remembering them and is signed by Fr. Berg. A prayer is said for these folks and for their particular circumstance. The Vestry and Growth Committee is made aware of the recipients. The list of recipients has grown from about 10 to almost 24, indicating that some longtime parishioners are no longer able to worship with us on Sundays. Please let Grace Giammarco or MaryAnn Kiesling know if there is someone whom you would like included.

Committee members: Fr Dustin Berg, Jesse Childers, Marilyn Thorp (new member), Ten Gall, Bruce Hixon, MaryAnn Kiesling, Sharon Ryan, Karen Violand, and Rhonda Warren. Ann Coen was a member during the year but has withdrawn due to other commitments.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Ryan  
MaryAnn Kiesling  
Co-chairs

### Trustees Report 2016

The Trustees of St. Mark's manage all endowment funds for the church. Endowment Funds are made up of bequests and donations which generous parishioners and friends have given to St. Mark's to ensure the longevity and well-being of the parish.

There are five Trustees who serve five year terms (maximum two consecutive terms) and who oversee the investment and distribution of the funds. Trustees for 2016 were Rick Werren (Chairman), Bob Kocab (Treasurer), Barb Siegfried (Secretary), Mark Nadel, John Willoughby, and Leigh Wilson. With Barb Siegfried's move to Columbus, Leigh Wilson agreed to fill Barb's term. In 2017 Rick Crowl will join the board, while Bob Kocab will leave. We thank Bob and Barb for their efforts.



Assets are currently invested in equities, income funds, and money market funds. A small portion of the assets have been designated by the donors to use only the income for the church library and the church music program. The balance is available to be used for the benefit of the church with the approval of the Trustees and Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Werren

### ECW Report 2016

We are a small group at St. Mark's which rises to the occasion when called upon. We collected toiletries and small items to fill Easter Baskets for the YWCA shelter in March. Our fundraiser was a luncheon and raffle in December. We paid our Mission Area and ECW Diocesan dues. We donated \$300.00 to the Puppet Gang. Sue Little and Tory Willoughby attended the Province V meeting at Mackinac Island in May. Sue also led the Summit/Central East ECW Mission Area and attended several ECW Diocesan meetings held throughout the Diocese. Locally we collected clothing and pill bottles for our companion Diocese of Belize. Flannel baby blankets were made and distributed at Akron Children's Hospital. We also collect Boxtops for Education for Schreiber school and Campbell's soup labels for a Navajo project at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. You can place those in Sue Little's mailbox.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Little

### Thankful Thursdays Report 2016

This past year St. Mark's has been an amazing community partner to Schreiber Elementary. Thankful Thursdays has helped many students and their families. The summer program only had a few families that came to pick up the food, so we will be reevaluating that program to decide if we want to continue or make adjustments. This school year we are providing food once a month for 8 families. St. Mark's also helped with Schreiber's fall family night by providing and serving dinner at our baseball themed evening. The Schreiber staff is very thankful for all that St. Mark's has done and they look forward to continuing a partnership to help our students in any way possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mandy Pelger

### Women's Study Group Report 2016

Continuing a long history at St. Mark's, the Wednesday morning Bible Study group meets at 10:30 in St. Mark's family room.

There are no homework assignments as we combine reading aloud with discussion. It is an informal and sharing time.

During 2016 we read a variety of materials beginning with books of some of the minor prophets with each reading their own favorite Bible. Other reading this year included "Paradoxology" by Krish

Kandiah, "Who Needs God?" by Harold Kushner, and currently the same book the Tuesday evening Bible Study group is reading, "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time" by Marcus Borg.

Come be with us any Wednesday. Call Eloise with questions at 330-499-7573

Respectfully submitted,  
Eloise Hochwalt

### Knitting Report 2016

We were able to donate over 50 knitted hats and scarves to the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas at Sea program. These items are taken to the ECW Annual Meeting in April/May from where they are gathered and sent to the Institute in NY/NJ and distributed to mariners coming into port during the winter months. We also knit prayer shawls, although we are behind in this mission. We will help anyone who wants to learn to knit. You may also knit your own personal items. We meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1 – 3 in the family room. Patterns are online at [Seamenschurch.org](http://Seamenschurch.org) and listed under Christmas at Sea.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### Parish Care Report 2016

Parish Care is a ministry to assist the bereaved following the memorial service of a loved one. We provide cookies, punch, tea and coffee, but are willing to do more as requested by the family involved. It is customary for the bereaved to make a cash donation to Parish Care to assist in providing for future needs. This year we met the needs of the family of Jack Brehany.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### Outreach Report 2016

Our focus this year has been assisting several families whose children attend Schreiber School. Mandy Pelger, a member of St. Mark's, approached the church about child hunger at her school. Our church family has brought mainly cereal, soup, pasta fixings, peanut butter, and canned fruit and veggies so that packages can be sent home monthly to about 10 families. We first packaged at the school, but the space was tight. This fall we are packaging at the church and delivering to the school. Food must fit into the child's backpack and cannot be too heavy as the kids are pre-school through grade 2.

We held a fundraising dinner in May which afforded us the ability to help 5 families in the summer and have a little back-up fund. We transported food to the school and met families in the parking lot, the distribution point. Not all designated families participated, but those who came were truly

thankful. Cash donations to this fund are welcomed. The program continues. Please keep bringing food.

At Christmas we filled boxes of food for nine families because Christmas break would be over two weeks. We also gave each family a \$50.00 food voucher from St. Mark's.

We also collected food and cash donations to assist in the Thanksgiving Basket project led by our sister church, St. Paul's.

The Baby Booth at the Stark County fair was led by Carol Popovich and has become very popular with nursing mothers and babies who need a diaper change.

Community Christmas was a success again this year. This project has been ongoing for at least 40 years at our church. Financially we met our goal. Shoppers bought from the requested gift list for 5 families. A \$100.00 food voucher and a donated box of taxable toiletries and cleaning items were added to the gifts. The parents want a nice Christmas for the children. Most requests were for clothing, bedding, shoes and toys. All were basic items. Thank you for making all these projects possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### Lunch Bunch Report 2016

Lunch bunch is for all St. Mark's women who like to gather to eat lunch once a month. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 at various restaurants in the Canton area. Monthly reservations are not necessary, but we would like to request a table with adequate seating. Watch the Lion's Pause and Sunday bulletin for location. At Christmas we plan a lunch at the beautifully decorated Massillon Woman's Club.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### Sunday School Report 2016

This has been an exciting year for St. Mark's Sunday School. We have welcomed several new students and parents to the program. We started the year with 7 students ranging in age from 3-12 and saw our number grow to 12 students ranging in age from 3-13 with the oldest 4 students being involved with the puppet group.

January through May, we used a variety of lesson plans from sources like "Lesson Plans That Work" and "Superheroes of the Bible". The lessons generally followed the liturgical calendar with some of the Superhero lessons mixed in for interest. Most lessons were supported by crafts and/or worksheets. We

continued our tradition of H.O.W. (Hands on Worship) the first Sunday of each month. Livvy Mull leads H.O.W. and does a craft or outreach project with the children. An example would be sending Valentine's Day cards to our home bound parishioners and other seasonally appropriate projects. We are so blessed to have Livvy leading the children in H.O.W. and sharing her talent and love of art.

This fall, the students joined the service efforts of Bradley Mull to collect warm blankets for his Code Warm – Blanket Brigade for the homeless. This project will extend into 2017.

At the start of the new school year in September, the parents of the Sunday School students and their teachers (including the leaders of the puppet group) met to discuss the upcoming school year and to hear what the parents felt is important for the learning of their children including brainstorming new ideas. It was decided to recreate a chapel room in one of the classrooms and to have chapel time at the beginning of the Sunday school time. The children helped set up the chapel and enjoyed creating their own tissue paper stained glass windows to decorate the walls. Kim Nadel is back leading the chapel time when she is in town to the delight of all, especially her grandsons.

We decided to use “Weaving God’s Promises” curriculum since it seems better suited to the youngest children but can be adapted for older ones as well. The free curriculum, provided to us by the diocese a couple years ago, follows a three year cycle covering the basic themes of Weaving our Faith, Weaving Together the Family of God, and Weaving God’s Beloved Community. In order to help build this foundation of education, worship, and service, the students study Holy Scripture, the Church including church history, seasons, practices, sacraments, etc. and the application of Christian living to our lives through prayer, outreach, and service.

All the children (and a few guests) participated in the puppet performance during Christmas which replaces the previously annual Christmas Pageant. The children enjoyed singing along and dressing up as their favorite Nativity people and animals and drinking “Angel Cocoa” to celebrate. Even Abbott, SI’s service dog, joined the show with fluffy wool ears and played a sheep as Si shepherded him down the aisle.

The children seem to look forward to their special Sunday School time each week and it is so rewarding to watch them grow in love and faith. Thank you to all our wonderful teachers especially Linda Deuble and Pam Clark for their dedication through the years. Welcome to Katie Cerrone Arnold, Kate Mozingo, Mandy Pelger, and Sara Schaub. Your participation is a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Ryan

### Wedding Coordinators Report 2016

There were no weddings in 2016, and none are currently scheduled for 2017. Helping to coordinate a wedding is a fun, beautiful, and rewarding job... we hope to have more weddings in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Popovich

### Craft Show Report 2016

St. Mark's first ever craft show was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had just over two dozen vendors with a wide-variety of products, food provided by St. Mark's parishioners, a jazz saxophone player, and a blood drive. St. Mark's had a great many parishioners volunteer their time and efforts to help make the day go smoothly, and it did!

Craft show planning began early in the year with a group that met every so often to discuss ideas and problem-solve. St. Mark's saw a good amount of traffic in the early hours of the craft show, but the traffic slowed after lunch.

If the craft show is to be an ongoing event, several modifications will be made upon the advice of the volunteers and the vendors that attended the show. Our vendors were asked to complete an exit survey, and most left good and constructive criticism.

Craft show analysis was collected, quantified, and distributed to those that volunteered in a meeting led by Karen Violand, our head coordinator for the event. A great many ideas were discussed to help improve the show.

The decision has yet to be made whether this event will happen in 2017, but feedback from parishioners was positive, and a good number of vendors would like to see the show continue. Should the event continue, a meeting will be held to discuss changes.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Kuceyeski

### Men's Prayer Breakfast Report 2016

A core of regulars continue to meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the church library for a few prayers for relatives, friends, and the Church, followed by an interesting discussion or presentation of a variety of current generally church related topics. A dutch continental meal is provided by alternating members.

This past year, the meeting time was changed to 7:30 AM and lasts for about an hour. Visitors are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Keenan

### Revitalize Ohio Report 2016

February 2016 St. Mark's agreed to participate in the Revitalize Ohio program being sponsored by the Diocese and coordinated by the Rev. Brad Purdom. The Canton area churches along with St. Mark's were St. Paul's, St. Timothy's Massillon, New Life Uniontown, Trinity Alliance, and St. Timothy's Macedonia. There is a similar group of churches in the Toledo area using the same process. St. Mark's formed a team of 15 people that has been meeting the third Tuesday of every month since June. We have completed the first half of the process. The second half will be implementation and review, with 2 joint meetings at 4 to 6 month intervals.

#### Area Church Meetings:

June at St. Paul's - Moving from Welcoming to Inviting – Invite/Welcome/Connect Checklists; Invite-able events

July at New Life - Adult Faith Formation – becoming experiential in teaching, finding resources that are primarily led by group process folks, creating time for spiritual reflection upon anything/everything

October Conference - Holy Currencies – gracious leadership, mutual invitation, connecting our ministries with new locations.

December at St. Mark's - Developing a meaningful and relational connection with our local neighborhoods and communities. Developing and reflecting upon short term 4-6 month action plans particular to your congregation.

#### St. Mark's Revitalize Ohio Team:

We have met every month since June and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 23rd.

- Realizing the similarities with the Grow My Church effort from 2013, we reviewed the information and recommendations from the team.
- Studied “Invite-able Events” - what they are and what they are not. St. Mark's has both and we need more of both.
- Had a joint meeting with the Growth Committee to further both of our understanding of “Invite-able Events”. (Together we sponsored a pot luck dinner with the other 5 Revitalize Churches in conjunction with our Wednesday evening outside serves.)
- Completed the parish survey
- Contacted St. Paul's, St. Timothy's and NewLife to discuss the possibility of shared resources and/or joint program offerings. At this time St. Paul's and St. Timothy's are not interested in sharing resources but would be open to promoting each other's' activities. NewLife has not responded to our request.
- Action Plan for the next 4 to 6 months is to work on the following two areas: Culture of Inviting and Spiritual/Faith Formation.
- Looked at ways to Spiritually Energize the St. Mark's community i.e. Increase study opportunities, support present ongoing groups to discuss their spiritual journey. Suggestion was made for the Cluster Dinner groups to discuss a specific Bible verse at their next event.
- Discussion on school lease was positive and enthusiastic. This use of the building supports some of the criteria we have been looking at over the last 6 months.

#### Summary:

First, I am going to take this opportunity on behalf of the parishes to thank our Revitalize Team members: Bob Kennedy, Bruce Hixon, Caroline Willoughby, Charlie Kiesling, Chuck Violand, Dave Thorley, Fr. Dustin Berg, Gary Giammarco, Grace Giammarco, Joe Hoot, John Willoughby, Judy Hixon, Sharon Ryan, Rick Werren, and Ten Gaul.

The process has not been without its frustration and disappointment. I think we had all hoped for some synergies and efficiencies through collaboration with the area churches but that was not meant

to be at this time. The lack of focus on financial issues has also been a concern, but that has not stopped our team from having discussion on St. Mark's financial sustainability. However, overall I think the process has been helpful and provided meaningful direction. The process has provided the framework for the St. Mark's team to have meaningful discussion and take positive action to move St. Mark's along our journey to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Kiesling

### BrewMeister's Annual Report 2016

If you're thinking it's been mighty quiet with the BrewMeisters lately think "duck on a pond". Quiet and peaceful on the surface; paddling like crazy underneath. There's lots going on with our group of intrepid brewers.

Last winter, rather than trying to fit our annual Songs and Suds into a tight Lenten schedule and early Easter we opted to forego this event and focus our energy instead on our annual craft brewery pilgrimage—this year to Maize “don't-call-me-just-a-winery-anymore” Valley. These types of events require exhaustive research and detailed planning.

In addition to sampling some outstanding craft beers at Maize Valley we were all witness to the amazing talents of two long time St. Mark's members, Joan Streb and Pat Kapper. Joan led the entire brew pub in a rousing version of “Long Tall Sally” from on top of the bar while dressed in a perfectly color coordinated outfit (no surprise there). Then, as promised, Pat Kapper challenged Kirk Bletzacker to a chug-a-lug contest of triple IPA's. My guess is that Kirk will think twice before accepting Pat's challenge next year.

July saw us moving our gathering outside with our annual Brews, Blues, and Barbeque in the pavilion. For the second straight year Willis Gordon entertained us with his wit and vocal talents.

We wrapped the year up with our annual Oktoberfest which was held in...well, October. Several new seasonal beers were introduced this year along with Al Korosi and Wayne Paradis' continued attempts to pass off some of their sludge as “stouts”. I'm pleased to say that the years of careful craft brewing at St. Mark's has refined the taste buds of our members to a level of sophistication that makes this kind of shameless activity impossible.

And, speaking of shameless...the ladies brew team once again rigged the voting and the Applause-O-Meter to ensure their victory once more in the craft brewing contest.

All of us in the BrewMeisters group are eagerly looking forward to another great brewing year in 2017, as well as some measure of respectability that seems to have gone missing.

Irreverently submitted,

Chuck Violand  
Head BrewMeister

## UTO Report 2016

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a small way to say thank you to God and be part of a larger gifting process. Two times each year we are asked to save our change in a little blue box each time saying a prayer of thanksgiving for a blessing received. Through United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. United Thank Offering is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

Totals from St. Mark's:

Spring Ingathering:	\$ 571.95	19 contributors
Fall Ingathering:	\$ 539.00	17 contributors
Yearly total:	\$1110.95	36 contributors

From the President of the UTO Board: Opportunity to contribute to "Pocket of Prayers"

*"Every three years, the United Thank Offering gathers original prayers from around the Episcopal Church to create a pocket book of prayers available at General Convention. This year we are hoping to collect original prayers from nine categories: gratitude, guidance, fear/danger, forgiveness, healing, loneliness, crisis/dealing with disappointment or crisis, love of God or other. Children, women, men, clergy, seminarians or groups may write prayers for this edition of the booklet. We welcome prayers from every diocese and province of the Episcopal Church and prayers can be submitted in any language. Prayers can be submitted in any format: collect, litany, free form or prose. We encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit and write a prayer to be used throughout the church by individuals, to begin or close meetings, or in a variety of settings.*

*Please submit all prayers by July 1, 2017. All prayers must be submitting using this webpage:*

*[https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/uto\\_book\\_of\\_prayers](https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/uto_book_of_prayers). You'll be asked to select which category your prayer fits into best for the pocket prayer book. Please provide your name, parish, diocese, province and, if applicable, your position within UTO. You'll also be asked to provide a title for your prayer. You may submit multiple prayers, however, you will need to fill out a separate form for each prayer. If you need assistance with the submission process, please contact our staff at [hmelton@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:hmelton@episcopalchurch.org). Thank you, in advance, for participating in the 2018 United Thank Offering pocket prayer book and for inviting others to participate as well. The past editions of these small prayer books have become treasured items and a wonderful way to continue to infuse our lives, work and gatherings with prayers when words escape us."*

We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to share your faith through prayer(s) with others,

Thanking you for your continued generous response,

Kathy Kennedy and Amelia Rowland, Co-Chairs

## Usher's Report 2016

At the end of 2016 we had 8 teams of 3 members each, for a total of 24 total ushers. They served throughout the year at funerals and special services. I would like to see the pool of ushers grow and encourage anyone, male or female, to contact me directly at 330-749-8796 or [bokenned52@gmail.com](mailto:bokenned52@gmail.com). It is a wonderful way to become involved at St. Mark's and requires little training.



A special thanks to Katie for organizing and publishing the schedule along with emailing members. Also, many thanks to those that stepped up while I was incapacitated, especially Emily and Derek Gordon.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kennedy

### Altar Guild Report 2016

We now has 10 members engaged in the Altar Guild ministry, however several, after many years of service, elected to take a less active role.

Our duties include caring for the sacred vessels, the bread and the wine, the fair linens and hangings and the candles and torches used for worship. We arrange for flowers each week, and for the poinsettias at Christmastime and the lilies at Easter.

Each week we prepare all the things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist or any of the other sacraments or offices of the church. Generally a team of two people comes in on Saturday morning to prepare for the 8:00 a.m. service. Often they have the benefit of organ practice to accompany their work. Between services, preparation for the 10:00 a.m. service takes place, and after the 10:00 service things are put away.

We would be interested in talking to anyone who would like to learn more about our work. There is great fellowship among the group and great satisfaction in this ministry. It would be particularly helpful if one or more people would volunteer to assist after the 10:00 a.m. service. The acolytes have been helping out and we are grateful for their assistance.

During the course of this year in addition to our regular purchases of flowers we spent \$378.75 for twelve new purificators.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Strattan

### Photography Report 2016

There were a variety of events and activities at St. Mark's this past year. I was privileged to take some photos of some of these events and supply them to the office. Here is a list of a few of the events I was able to attend and photograph.

Bill Rand

The bishop's visit on Feb. 21, 2016

Easter Sunday Bagpiper

Photos of our meetings of "Growing a Rule of Life classes

Photos of the Hymn Sing- March 11, 2016

Photos of the Midsummer Caprice- Bob Morrison

Photos of Palm Sunday

Photos of Senior Acolytes- May 29th 2016

Seigfried Sendoff party at Bob Morrison's and at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Craft Fest.

Photos of St. Mark's Vestry Members.  
And misc. photos of St. Mark's in general.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Rand

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

First, again a special thank you to all the parishioners that support St. Mark's in so many ways, And, as your treasurer I owe a special thank you to the weekly offering counters and the check signers. This year, after expenses, the Community Dinners and BrewMeisters delivered \$2,164 to the bottom line. Carol Popovich, her teams, and the brewers performed a spectacular job, thanks to all of you for your support.

### 2016 Financial Performance:

Our expenses continue to exceed income. The 2016 shortfall of \$19,200 is \$20,000 less than the budgeted \$40,100 thanks to the matching gift campaign, heating cost, and contribution to the fair booth. This makes the seventh (8) consecutive year the short fall was covered by transferring funds from our reserved funds. The Operating Reserve fund was depleted in 2015.

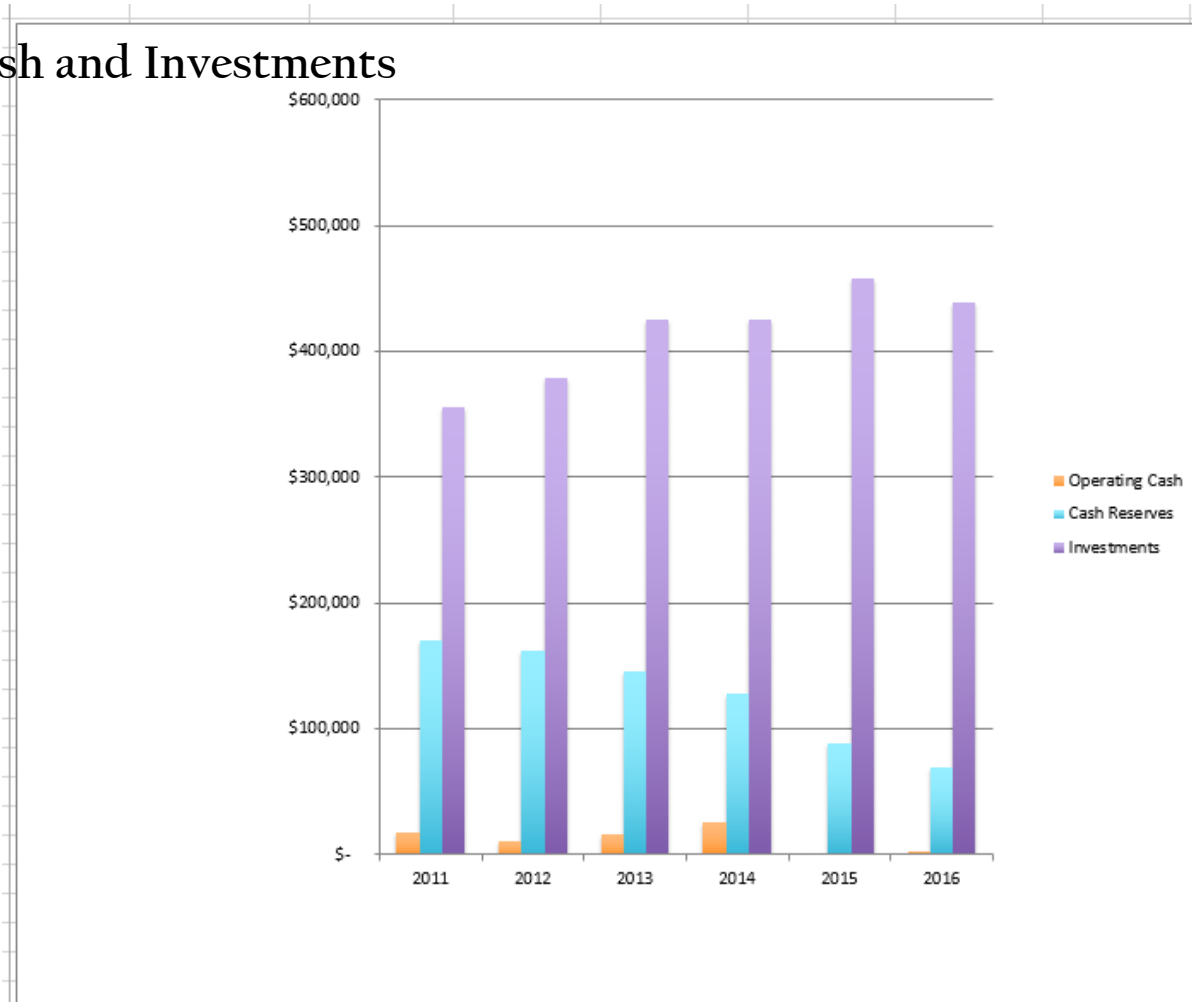
The projected deficit for 2017 is \$40,123 and will deplete most of our Reserve for Capital Improvements. Following is a chart showing a four year recap of income/expenses and 2017 forecast. And, a 6 year graph showing our cash and investment funds. Just to point out the obvious, the trend in these charts is not sustainable.

# Income vs. Expenses

## Income vs. Expenses

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Income	\$ 195,439	\$ 192,789	\$ 205,353	\$ 192,950	\$ 204,691	\$ 198,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 17,920	\$ 20,805	\$ 33,659	\$ 27,500	\$ 24,442	\$ 27,372
Clergy( Includes Benefits)	\$ 86,884	\$ 87,069	\$ 89,451	\$ 89,472	\$ 90,058	\$ 90,373
Other Salaries (Includes Benefits)	\$ 31,158	\$ 31,922	\$ 40,705	\$ 42,610	\$ 42,896	\$ 44,781
Other expenses	\$ 86,793	\$ 75,430	\$ 77,599	\$ 78,836	\$ 66,507	\$ 78,310
Total Expenses	\$ 222,755	\$ 215,226	\$ 241,414	\$ 238,418	\$ 223,903	\$ 240,836
Deficit	<b>-\$27,316</b>	<b>-\$22,437</b>	<b>-\$36,061</b>	<b>-\$45,468</b>	<b>-\$19,212</b>	<b>-\$42,836</b>

## Cash and Investments



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Operating Cash	\$ 17,104	\$ 10,530	\$ 16,164	\$ 25,508	\$ 0	\$ 2,842
Cash Reserves	\$ 169,896	\$ 162,591	\$ 145,303	\$ 127,518	\$ 87,929	\$ 69,429
Investments	\$ 354,891	\$ 379,051	\$ 424,540	\$ 424,539	\$ 458,302	\$ 438,576
Total Cash&Investments	\$ 541,891	\$ 552,172	\$ 586,007	\$ 577,565	\$ 546,231	\$ 510,847

The 2017 "Way Forward Campaign"

Pledge Recapping

Stewardship Recap	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Pledges	104	103	98	97	90	86
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 176,677	\$ 174,404	\$ 162,792	\$ 167,766	\$ 182,044	\$ 173,763
Average Pledge		\$ 1,693	\$ 1,661	\$ 1,730	\$ 2,023	\$ 2,021
New Pledges	1	2	3	5	5	3
Increased Pledges	35	49	26	41	32	34
Decreased Pledge This Year	29	19	23	10	8	6
NOT Pledging this year		3	5	4	5	6
Lost Pledgers due to Death, Health Etc.			3	2	7	1
	Conformation should equal Total Pledges	103	98	97	90	86

Way Forward Campaign Recap						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Total Pledges	98	97	90	86	77	
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 162,792	\$ 167,766	\$ 182,044	\$ 173,763	\$ 164,336	
Average Pledge	\$ 1,661	\$ 1,730	\$ 2,023	\$ 2,021	\$ 2,134	
New Pledges	3	5	5	3	2	
Increased Pledges	26	41	32	34	21	
Decreased Pledge This Year	23	10	8	6	4	
NOT Pledging this year	5	4	5	6	6	
Lost Pledgers due to Death, Health Etc.	3	2	7	1	5	

## Vestry Nominations 2017

### **Sara Strattan: 3 Year Term**

I am married to Tom Burns and have two children. Matthew is married to Allison. They have two children and live in Columbus. Edward is pursuing his master's degree in English at Ohio University. When the children were small I taught Sunday School and for the past few years, I have been a member of Altar Guild.



### **Rhonda Warren: 3 Year Term**

I am a long time member of St. Mark's. I am married to my husband, Norm, for almost 40 years. I have two married sons to my wonderful Daughters-in-law with 4 grandchildren. I enjoy serving the church as an usher, a member of the Altar Guild and as a Lector. I will support our current out-reach programs.

### **Derek Gordon: 3 Year Term**

I have had the good fortune to attend St. Mark's for over twenty years and am grateful for the opportunity to be considered to join the Vestry. As a former member of the Grow My Church initiative, I am pleased to see some of those efforts take effect in a positive manner. Unfortunately, it is clear that there are several ongoing financial, social, and growth challenges facing our church and churches across the country. While I do not pretend to have all of the answers, I hope that my experience as a public employee and in a leadership capacity with a variety of community organizations will be of service to St. Marks. I welcome the opportunity to work with the other vestry members to develop sustainable solutions that address these challenges. I fully understand that these decisions and conversations may be difficult. However, I truly believe that with the support of the congregation, the vestry will be able to make decisions to assure that the church will continue to be a welcoming place of worship for decades to come.



### **Christy Thorley: 3 Year Term**



Hello everyone! After more than 35 years as a member here at St. Mark's I have agreed to be on our Vestry, first timer here. I hope that I can be of use and will help in any way possible. Dave and I have been married over 39 years and were married at St. Timothy's, the church where I was raised. So you see, I have been a lifelong Episcopalian and find great peace and comfort in our faith. I taught high school French in Louisville City schools for 32 years and really found my passion there. My students taught me almost as much as I taught them. Dave and I chaperoned 17 groups of students to France and had the best times watching them grow and discover. No children of our own unfortunately, but three of our exchange kids really feel like our own. We been included in weddings, births, and lots of fun. We feel so fortunate and have been able to share lots of great adventures and travels. Our best trip so far was to Africa. It really makes one

realize how fortunate we are here in USA. Our next adventure this year is to Australia and New Zealand.

### **Kirk Bletzacker: 1 Year Term**

My name is Kirk Bletzacker and have been married to Beth for almost 31 years. We have 3 children and 3 grandchildren: son, Zack, married to Cory who have Oscar (4) and Carson (2).....daughter, Emily, married to Derek Gordon who have Zeke (19 months).....and son, Alex. All who keep us very busy! I am the assistant plant manager at Resco Products and have been employed there for 36 years. My hobbies include boating/relaxing on Meyers Lake, gardening, cooking, and attempting to golf with Derek. I participate in Building and Grounds, Aluminum Can Fund, Cluster Dinners, Usher Team, BrewMeisters, and served a previous 3-year term on Vestry.



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