



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report 2020

515 48th St. NW
Canton, OH 44709
office@stmarks-canton.org
330.499.2662

St. Mark's Clergy and Staff

Fr. RJ

W. Robert Morrison: Organist/Choirmaster

Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager

St. Mark's 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 2021

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment/Speaking Rules
5. Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes (page 24)
6. Appointment of Tellers*
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls*
9. Rector's Report
10. Warden's Reports
11. Search Committee Report
12. 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Missional Budget
13. Closing of Polls
14. Report from the Tellers*
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. Closing Prayer
18. Adjournment

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

Vestry Members

Class of 2020 (serving until January 2023 Annual Meeting)

Marcia Kiesling

Beth Crowl

Bruce Hixon

Class of 2019 (serving until January 2022 Annual Meeting)

Caroline Willoughby

John Wise

Linda Deuble

Outgoing Vestry Members

Bob Kennedy

Grace Giammarco

Beck Rand

Vestry Candidates:



Carol Hayn

In March of 2015, I attended my first worship service at St. Mark's and immediately knew I had found my church home. As a newcomer, I experienced the wonderfully warm and welcoming spirit this church family embodies. During the course of my life, I have been a member of seven other Episcopal parishes, a military chapel, an Anglican church, an overseas community church, and an Evangelical Lutheran church – so it's nice to be home. I was on the vestry or council at several of these parishes, and I look forward to using those

past experiences on vestry service at St. Mark's.

John and I have lived in Louisville since 1992. Between us, we have three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. It is a “far-flung” family as they reside in Maryland, North Carolina and Arizona. We enjoy going to restaurants and are awaiting the day when we can do that again! My hobbies are crosswords (moderate), reading (fiction), and gardening (flowers, and one tomato plant).

My degree from the University of Maryland is in political science – but my professional life has been spent primarily in the field of insurance administration, with a smattering of sales activity along the way. In January of 2020, I retired from my position in the Stark County Commissioners office, where for 12 years I handled the self-funded employee health plan.

As St. Mark’s begins a new chapter under Father RJ’s leadership, I am excited about our parish’s future and am grateful for the opportunity to be of service as we move forward.

Gene Little

Our family moved from New York, where we attended an Episcopal church, to Canton. Mason Grade School, near our home, started to be utilized as an Episcopal Church on Sundays. We stored children’s cribs in our garage for their use during Sunday services. I worked about 35 years for The Timken Company. A friend attending graduate school at Kent State introduced me to Sally who became a teacher/musician. Bingo! We have enjoyed raising 3 children who are spread between Michigan, California, and Germany We enjoy participating in various community events.





Mandy Pelger

I joined St. Mark's about 8 years ago when I was searching for a church to raise our children in. When we came to visit St. Mark's I felt right away that this was our church, because of the people there and I knew this was where I wanted our children to learn about Jesus Christ. I am so thankful we found St. Mark's and that I was entrusted to be part of our most recent search committee. I'm now looking forward to serving on the vestry.

I have been married to Drew for 11 years and we have two children (Brynn, 8 and Connor, 6). Giving back to our local community is very important to me and I am able to do that through my career as an educator in the Canton City School district and through volunteering in a variety of different organizations.

In a typical year, this is the spot where we would indicate parish statistics. Much of our audience was online this year, and those statistics are both difficult to tabulate and not particularly accurate.

Rector's Report

It is difficult to offer an annual report for two reasons. The first is that I arrived at St. Mark's on November 1, 2020, and, as I write this report, I have not yet been at St. Mark's for two months yet. In addition, the circumstances under which I have arrived do not allow me to do the kinds of things I would normally do. There was no course in seminary called, "How to enter a community during a global pandemic." All I can offer are a few observations and a look toward the future.

I have been very impressed with the level of lay leadership at St. Mark's. Many things that usually land on the rector's desk are handled by lay leaders in this parish. That is a good dynamic, as it will allow me to do more in the parish and in the community. I did have the opportunity to meet with

the altar guild in the picnic pavilion before the cold weather set in, and feel blessed to have had that opportunity.

St. Mark's is blessed with an outstanding staff. Our Parish Administrator, Katie Kuceyeski, is the best I have ever worked with. Bob Morrison has the best sensitivity to church music of any organist and choir master that I have worked with. With the staff and lay leadership at St. Marks, I see many possibilities.

I have also been impressed with the hospitable and loving atmosphere at St. Mark's. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to meet many of you in person, I am grateful for the phone calls and cards. The difficult thing is that I will not recognize many faces when I see them without masks.

The facilities at St. Mark's have been well cared for. The buildings and grounds are inviting. I look forward to putting the picnic pavilion to good use, and having services in the outdoor chapel when the weather permits. Most of all, I look forward to gathering for the Eucharist. The Eucharist is at the heart of what we do and who we are.

Looking forward, I would value your input regarding the needs of the community surrounding St. Mark's. What can we do to reach the people who are our neighbors? Our ministry to the community surrounding St. Mark's might look very different than what the church typically does. It is important that we meet the needs that others often overlook.

Another piece of St. Mark's ministry that I believe is vital is inter-generational faith formation. The best research indicates that the key predictor of whether a person will remain in the church after they leave home is whether they have at least five intergenerational relationships within the church that they grow up in. This means that every member of St. Mark's is vital to raising the next generation. I can still name the people in the church where I grew up that were vital in my faith formation. Bob and Avis Haworth always asked me about how school was going. Priscilla Lebsack encouraged me to join the children's choir. Mrs. Thompson (I don't think anyone ever called her by her first name) would always relate my

experience to a Bible story. Oliver Bouvier let me “help” him clean the church after services. You will never hear these names, because they are not known outside of the small town I grew up in. Yet their influence on me has impacted people in Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Virginia, Florida, Wyoming, and Ohio. Each member of St. Mark’s can have that same kind of impact for eternity. The child with whom you share your faith may not become a priest, but every Christian has an impact on their community.

I look forward to the years to come at St. Mark’s. I count myself blessed to be back in Ohio. The Diocese of Ohio is the healthiest diocese I have been a part of. St. Mark’s appears to be among the healthiest parishes I have served. Our future, through the mercies of Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, is bright.

Fr. RJ

(Former) Interim Rector’s Annual Report *January 1-October 31, 2020*

What can one say about such a year? First, that St. Mark’s has been challenged—and that its people have met and continue to meet the challenges. Second, that despite the limitations and distractions of a worldwide pandemic, the people of St. Mark’s have worshipped together (in a wide variety of formats), prayed for the ill and for those who have died, bade farewell to parishioners of long standing while welcoming others, shared the Eucharist, maintained their stewardship for the parish, and recruited their new rector.

I will not attempt a thorough summary of the year but will offer a few of what St. Mark’s people may recall as pivotal moments—with apologies for overlooking some moments I should have included.

- We observed a “white” Epiphanytide, returning to “green Sundays” only after The Presentation of Our Lord on February 2. Our annual meeting on January 19, facilitated by Senior Warden Derek Gordon, was efficient and amicable.

- By Ash Wednesday, we were considering how to respond to the growing challenge of the pandemic, but as we accepted ashes and affirmed our mortality, we did not know how appropriate that liturgy would prove to have been as the portal to a pandemic. Nor did we anticipate that the first Sunday of Lent, March 1, would be our last time together in the sanctuary with choir, organ, acolytes, and a vigorous congregation.
- Shortly after March 1, we resorted to a series of liturgical experiments with broadcasts from the St. Mark's parlor, from the sanctuary, and from my living room. Katie's leadership and technical savvy was vital to our transition. Fortunately, my wife, who is a lay Eucharistic minister at Christ Church Hudson, was able to assist in the services beamed from "St. Mark's Chapel in Aurora." Our cats also attempted to assist.
- On April 4, the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday, St. Mark's offered palms and prayers to parishioners driving up, one by one, in more than 45 automobiles. It was a great joy to offer my blessing to people directly rather than to the lens of a camera!
- Thanks to our Betty Fortney Chapel-in-the-Woods, we were able to resume congregational Morning Prayer in June on Pentecost Sunday. Led by Charlie Kiesling, a group of resourceful parishioners took responsibility for the setup each Sunday morning. Over time, they introduced improvements in the broadcast technology and in the PA system. While challenged on many fronts by the pandemic, we were blessed with remarkably good weather for nearly five months.
- In late summer, we were able to resume the Eucharist according to diocesan protocols. Our good fortune with the weather continued through early October. We were able to resume our Informal Discussion Group as well—a welcome reminder of normalcy prior to the impending spike in infections that would suspend such activities for the time being.
- On Sunday, October 25, I met with you for the last time—virtually, I am sorry to say. But I departed both confident in your new rector and thankful for the ten months we had experienced together in 2020 as a parish family.

During an extraordinary year, one never to be repeated, one hopes, St. Mark's not only endured. In many ways, the parish thrived. In my final sermon, I cited numerous examples of parishioners who had repeatedly gone the extra mile, and then some, to sustain the spirit and the "fabric" of the parish. Rather than offer that recognition again here, which would add several more pages to this report, I will make certain that this sermon is preserved in the church files as a reminder of those who did so much when it was so important.

The Rev. Paul Gaston
(Former) Interim Rector

Senior Warden's Report

After four years, this annual meeting signals a bittersweet end to my time as Senior Warden. Given the multiple challenges we have faced and overcome over the past four years, it is only fitting that my last annual meeting as Senior Warden is being held virtually. I know that this meeting and transitioning to new leadership will be one more way to show our congregation's resilience.

I am very proud of what has been accomplished at St. Mark's during a time where most congregations would be content just to survive. I want to list a few of these to recognize how hard our Vestry, staff, and entire congregation have worked to move St. Mark's forward:

- Two Interim Rector transitions
- Completed an 18 month full time Rector search
- Successful \$150,000 Restoration Campaign
- Welcoming Weaver Childhood
- Five year contract extension through 2027
- Navigating the COVID-19 Pandemic

Working through any one of these matters in a four year period would be worth celebrating, but to tackle them all and more is quite an achievement.

There are too many people to thank for all of their support and devotion to St. Mark's, but there are a few I must recognize.

My family has been incredibly supportive of my time as Senior Warden. They have been every bit as active as I have been in their various roles at St. Mark's and I am confident that will continue.

Our Office Manager, Katie Kuceyeski continues to be an absolute anchor in keeping our parish organized and forward thinking. Her proactive management has been critical to our recent transitions and I am extremely grateful for her assistance.

My fellow Wardens, Rhonda Warren and Grace Giammarco and Treasurer, Charlie Kiesling. All of them brought an incredible amount of experience, skills, time, and unwavering commitment to St. Mark's. I am fortunate to have served along side them and to have had their united judgment on multiple important occasions.

There are countless other Vestry members, unsung ministry leaders, devoted parishioners, Search Committee members, and Robert Morrison that have my full gratitude. I also cannot overemphasize how blessed we have been for the leadership and spiritual guidance of Rev. Beth Frank, Rev. Barbara Bond, and Rev. Paul Gaston.

Finally, I know we are all grateful for the calling that Fr. RJ has answered here at St. Mark's. I am confident that is the right person to lead St. Marks' as we seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden. The pandemic continues to limit our ability to worship together, but it will end, and I cannot wait to see brighter days ahead at our church.

Thanks,

Derek Gordon

Junior Warden's Report

The canons of the Episcopal Church say little about the warden's responsibility other than to insure services are conducted, and to open the door. The canons also say nothing about how to run a church during a pandemic! That being said, it has been my pleasure to serve as Jr. Warden during the past six months along with an amazing group of clergy, Vestry and staff who have kept St. Mark's up and running during these "uncertain times" as they say. I would especially like to thank Derek Gordon for his steadfast and faithful effort as Senior Warden. As the Jr. Warden is typically the "people's warden," I have had the opportunity to see our parish members rise to the occasion by doing outreach, welcoming our new rector Fr. RJ and by continually caring for one another. Rhonda Warren, the past Jr. Warden, has left quite a mark of her own, and was an inspiration to me. While not being able to see and visit with our parishioners, I still tried to represent them any way that I could.

Faithfully,

Grace Giammarco

Parish Musician's Report

The pandemic has disrupted our music-making - mainly with the prohibition of singing. But, thanks to streaming, we've been able to play some music on our fine organ and chimes. We are hoping to do some handbell/handchime offerings soon - no chance of germs being expelled from those bells. And in time we'll be back in business with our good singers and guests like Ron Hill at the synthesizer. Our new priest tells me he has a classical guitar - good news - this means another variation in sacred sound. There is an anthem in our library that calls for just such an accompaniment. We'll look forward to some new dimensions!

Respectfully submitted,

W.. Robert Morrison, parish musician

Rector Search Committee

Well, as you know we have our Rector Father RJ! When Father RJ gave the Search Committee his Eucharistic service during the interview process, it

was only the 2nd time we had been in the sanctuary since March, and this was in September. COVID-19 gave us challenges but we had the Holy Spirit on our side. The committee can't wait until we celebrate with you Father RJ's calling to St. Mark's. We will have a Celebration of a New Ministry service at sometime in the future for Father RJ. We hope you are enjoying his sermons and getting to know him and his style. Special thanks to Anne Coen, Grace Giammarco, Mandy Pelger, Ken Jaeb and Paul Sack. It was my pleasure to work together for the outcome we achieved.

Thanks,
Joseph Hoot

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORTS

2020 was a particularly difficult year for many of our groups. Many ministries were unable to meet and do not have reports for this Annual Meeting.

"350 in 3" Pandemic Outreach Project

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

In the spring, St. Mark's received requests from Tom Turner (Mercy Medical) and Marcia Kiesling (Aultman) for home-sewn protective cloth masks. The masks were needed by staff not involved in direct patient care (housekeeping, food services, etc). Through a coordinated volunteer effort a team of dedicated women took on this request. A goal was set by myself (coordinator) and our senior warden, Derek Gordon, of 350 masks in 3 weeks! I am pleased to report the team of Livvy Mull, MaryAnn Kiesling, AnJane McConville, Sharon Ryan, Sandy Paradis, Tory Willoughby, Eloise Hochwalt, Sue Little and Rhonda Warren sewed over 364 fabric face masks to donate equally to each facility. Everyone's participation was critical in reaching our goal, but special thanks to Livvy Mull who turned in 107 masks and Katie Kuceyeski for allowing her home to serve as the collection point for the regularly scheduled pickups she coordinated.

During this time of social isolation, it is my hope this act of outreach resulted in a sense of connectedness, challenged minds, added movement, purpose to each day, and a sense of fulfillment for the volunteers. Here is praying this project serves as an inspiration for many more outreach opportunities in the future.

I will close with the words I used in my stewardship testimonial during our 2020 pledge drive:

“The act of giving is many things: a reflection of our hearts, a reflection of our priorities, an act of discipline, worship and praise. The act of giving is a privilege and a blessing... Together we will become living examples of followers that “Love God, Love Our Neighbor and Change the World.”

Together we did this!

Kathy Kennedy

“350 in 3” Coordinator

Acolytes

I would like to acknowledge the St. Mark's Acolytes. They are as follows. Joe Hoot, Marilyn Thorp, Susie Hines, Karen Violand, Lauren Hoot, Fletcher Clark, Brooks Deuble and Danny Holihan. The acolytes were active until March 10th. With the onset of the Covid 19 virus, all acolyte activity has been limited to the Head Cross for streaming in church services.

We had our senior recognition for Lauren Hoot, which was scheduled for May, move to October 25th, which was Father Gaston's final Sunday at St. Mark's. As of now our crew of acolytes stand ready to serve. I look forward to in person services once again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary L. Giammarco

St. Mark's Acolyte Advisor

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in his House by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining, and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and serving the clergy and the parish.

The seven faithful members of the Altar Guild - Diana Cornell, Paulette Frech, Susie Hines, Eloise Hochwalt, Louise Moore, Carol Popovich, and Sara Strattan – have been called upon to be flexible and collaborative during 2020. We adapted to outdoor services and to new Covid-related protocols with help from others in the parish. We gathered flowers from our gardens and around the church during the summer. Pam McCarthy was a great help as she donated flowers from her garden for several weeks. “The guys” – Derek Gordon, Geoff Gordon, Joe Hoot, Bob Kennedy, Charlie Kiesling – helped when climbing on ladders and other such things were required. Those who manned the registration table in summer helped by taking things that we had prepared on Saturday down to the Betty Fortney Chapel altar when our members could not attend services. We are grateful to all who contributed to our work during the year.

Altar Guild continued to provide funding for the water cooler in the Family Room throughout 2020.

We are all grateful for the opportunity to serve on Altar Guild and are looking forward to welcoming several new members during 2021. If you are curious about the special ministry of serving on the Altar Guild, if you want to learn more about your faith, if you are willing to accept the responsibility of helping to prepare for worship services, and if you would enjoy becoming better acquainted with some wonderful people, please talk to Father R.J. about the possibility of serving on Altar Guild.

Sara Strattan

Building & Grounds

Not all things that get done, are you able to see. One, because we cannot go to church, and two, not all repairs/tasks are noticed. With the school using the undercroft, they replaced the carpet on the one side of the room and it really looks nice. And yes, WE will get to use the room again! We replaced some lighting in the sanctuary. They are LED lower cost and much less heat comes from them. We now have a new boiler thanks to the Restoration Campaign! We have 2 boilers, and the other boiler is only 5

years old. We now have electricity out at the Betty Fortney Sanctuary in the woods. We have newly paved parking lots, both top and bottom were done. They look great. The surface is smooth, we have more handicap spots, and was nice to sit on this summer.

Bob Kennedy & Charlie Kiesling have worked hard this summer. They do little maintenance things so we don't have to pay someone. They take charge when they see something that needs to be done. A piece of sidewalk that needed to be replaced, leaves removed from the roof, trees that needed to be trimmed, branches cut and picked up, parking lot that needed to be cleaned off before services, and countless others that go un-asked and unnoticed. They and a cast of others worked hard to get the church open for outside services and ready for indoor because of COVID-19. Now they don't ask for thanks, but I thank them and I thank those they ask to help to get these tasks completed.

Thanks,
Joseph Hoot

Cluster Dinners

Cluster Dinners are a fellowship opportunity consisting of potluck dinners hosted in parishioners' homes. Typically, the groups are on hiatus during the winter. Due to the pandemic, no Cluster Dinners were held in 2020.

The fellowship generated by these groups is greatly missed. Perhaps small groups could begin Zooming in January! If interested, please contact me or the church office.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling, Coordinator

Community Christmas and Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown

We were very generous with our support for both of these organizations. Cash donations were accepted and split between the two projects. It

seemed strange not to be shopping for items that would give a “bang for the buck” so we could stretch our money as far as we could. Hopefully we will be able to serve families directly in 2021.

Sue Little

E.C.W.

This group is almost non-existent since the church membership has declined and there seems to be lack of interest. For years we have filled pails with food and hygiene items for the residents of the Y.W.C.A. shelter, however with COVID arriving before Easter, it didn't happen. I did deliver in the Spring, items which had previously been donated, and donated some items in December. They want only hygiene and food items at this time.

The Mission Area has not been meeting. We do have money, so we sent \$100.00 as requested by AGAPE to fund Thanksgiving dinner for a missionary family and their guests in Haiti.

Sue Little

Greeters/Welcome Guild

First, a heartfelt WELCOME to Fr. RJ Johnson. Many of us have not met Fr. RJ yet but we are so very glad to have him as our full time priest. We expect that the Welcoming Guild and he will have a good working relationship together.

Following Fr. Paul Gaston's Greeter dedication ceremony in October 2019 as well as the addition of 3 “recruiters” of greeters, our Greeters provided an enthusiastic welcome prior to the 10 o'clock service, for the first 3 months of 2020. Welcoming parishioners and visitors alike is the basis of fellowship within the Christian community. As you know, with the pandemic protocols our Sunday services came to a halt in March.

Thankfully on May 24 we began one service per Sunday in our outdoor chapel/Betty Fortney chapel. Under the direction of Katie Kuceyeski, our

administrative assistant, a welcome table was set up outside. Katie kept abreast of directives from our diocese and state. These directives were followed by masked volunteers who staffed the table each Sunday during the summer and autumn and kept a contact list, supplied masks if needed, handed out bulletins, and encouraged folks to use hand sanitizer, all while providing a friendly greeting.

A big THANK YOU for those volunteers each Sunday. We look forward to reinstating the WELCOMING GUILD with recruiters and weekly greeters in the spring of 2021. We may not see each other's smiles nor shake hands, but our eyes and words can offer a hearty welcome to all who attend our services.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Hixon
MaryAnn Kiesling
Pat Silagy Wesson
Tory Willoughby

Knitting

There are four of us who had been knitting at the church prior to COVID. Now, all knitting is being done at home. The ECW Annual Meeting was cancelled in May, so the knitted items were sent at a later date which gave us more time to produce hats and scarves. St. Mark's sent a total of 67 items to the Seamen's Church Institute.

Sue Little

Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, and Worship Leaders

In this time of pandemic several of our Eucharistic Ministers have understandably chosen not to serve. Each of us must decide how much potential exposure we are willing to chance. My special praise and thanks go out to those who have served us in these trying times.

Fletcher Clark, Anne Coen, Derek Gordon, Judy Hixon, Bob Kennedy, and Tom Turner.

We are grateful for their service as we continue to worship in whatever manner possible. Anyone who would care to join our ranks please contact Fr. RJ or Bruce Hixon. You will be most welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hixon

Lazarus Committee

The Columbarium is a wonderful gift that past and present parishioners have given to the St. Mark's Family. Many parishioners have reserved a place for themselves and their immediate families. Sixty eight of the 152 niches have been sold. This year five families have interred love ones in the St. Mark's columbarium.

The cost today is \$1000. This covers the niche, maintenance, and the gold lettering. Not only is this considered a bargain in funeral costs, but it also eliminates worry and expense at the time of your funeral.

The placement of your remains is an important part of your funeral planning, but not the only part. We also recommend you spent time with the priest outlining your funeral wishes.

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

Men Out Dining (MOD) Squad

The Mod Squad, Men Out Dining, last met February 19, with nine in attendance. The March meeting was cancelled because of the

COVID - 19 pandemic and it has been illegal and unwise to continue the program. Next year if there is sufficient interest, we can restart the activity when it is wise to do so.

In the past two years of operation, we averaged 12 attendees with a 17 member high.

Tony Keenan

One Stop Service Shop (OSSS)

Due to the health and safety of all parishioners, your OneStopServiceShop was only "officially" able to perform 3 tasks in 2020 that ranged from transportation, computer help, and a few odd jobs. I'm sure there were MANY "unofficial" tasks that weren't logged, including delivery of food, cards & emails sent, etc. We hope to get back on the service train as soon as it's safe for all.

HelpUs-HelpYou!

Beth Bletzacker

OneStopServiceShop Engineer

Outreach

Ministry:	Money Raised:
Community Christmas	\$1410
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$1269
Hope Outreach	\$2165

Additionally, several meal trains were set up throughout the year for parishioners dealing with COVID19 and quarantine.

Parish Notecards

The quiet ministry of Parish Notecards continued during the pandemic of 2020. We 3 ladies typically write them together at church which we were able to do in mid-February -16 notes were sent. The next 2 "rounds" were in early July with 18 notes sent and the end of October with 11 notes sent. With the

passing of several of our parishioners plus 2 former priests, October's mailings were the least number of notecards we have ever written. It was a sad reminder of those no longer with us but have passed on to eternal life. It was strange to be at our respective homes to write these notecards, but the words were heartfelt and we each said a prayer for each recipient prior to mailing them.

Inside the notecard is printed: "Your family of St. Mark's is thinking of you". We hand write an inspirational sentiment chosen by the signers, often unique to the recipient. It is an opportunity to let those who might be not able, for various reasons, to attend services to know that they continue to be part of our St. Mark's family.

We are especially looking forward to Fr. RJ's support and guidance in our ministry.

Respectfully submitted

Grace Giammarco

Pat Kapper

MaryAnn Kiesling

Photography

It has been my pleasure to provide some of the photos used for various purposes at St. Mark's. A few of those opportunities included:

-January 19, 2020 - Annual Meeting

-February 9, 2020 - The St. Mark's Intergenerational Eucharist

-March 1, 2020 - Lenten Conversation

-May 27, 2020 - Photo of the new Betty Fortney Sanctuary sign

-July 26, 2020 - Outdoor worship service in the Betty Fortney Sanctuary in the Woods. Photo appeared in the Canton Repository.

-Memorial Photos

-Screen Shots from some Facebook live streamed services.

While the pandemic restrictions limited activities and photos this year, I look forward to photographing familiar and new events in the future as we return to normalcy.

With gratitude,
Bill Rand

Prayer Chain

It has been another busy year for our Prayer Chain Team. This ministry is very important to the recipients of our prayers, as well as to their loved ones. Although we often hear little follow-up, it is most gratifying and rewarding when I learn someone can be removed from our prayer lists because they are healed and then share their gratitude for our efforts. God gets the glory, but we in turn can take pride in being his Prayer Warriors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Gordon

Sunday School

2020 has certainly been a different year for Sunday School, as it has for everyone at St. Mark's. We shifted to virtual or e-mailed Sunday School lessons in the Spring when COVID-19 hit. Our new school year began in September and has been done weekly via ZOOM. While it has had its challenges, our students seem to be enjoying the virtual meetings and our volunteer teachers are doing an amazing job coming up with creative lessons! A virtual Christmas pageant gave the children something different and fun to do as well! We hope you enjoyed it!

A huge thank you to our volunteer teachers:

Katie Cerrone
Mandy Pelger
Sara Schaub
Kathy Kennedy

With joy, Emily Gordon

Thankful Thursdays

Thankful Thursday's: Last school year we were able to send food with several families every month. This year due to COVID restrictions and not meeting in person at church it was decided that we would postpone Thankful Thursdays. The pantry at St. Marks was emptied and all food was

given out to many families at Schreiber this fall. When we are back together, we hope to restart this program. Thank you all for supporting so many families in need over the past several years!

Mandy Pelger

Ushers

St Mark's usher group has had a remarkable year in 2020. we gained a member in Keith Holihan. we shuffled our crews into a seven-event rotation and got through the start of the new year when the pandemic kicked up. The ushers suspended their duties when the diocese of Ohio suspended in-person church services and added social distancing and occupancy restrictions for worship services.

St Mark's outdoor chapel allowed live services to continue but without the need for ushers. A set up group of church member volunteers ensured service at 9am. As the pandemic continues our volunteers have incorporated some of ushers and provided service support and I am thankful to all.

With a new rector, Fr RJ, on board I look forward to having our ushers working and getting acquainted with him. I pray we can support his goals and style to grow our community of faithful.

When in person services resume I hope to have our teams in place

Respectfully
Bob Kennedy

Wednesday Study Group

When our group last met on March 11 of this year, we had no idea it would be our last meeting of this year. We look forward to once again feeling safe and part of St. Mark's family on a Wednesday morning as we read, discuss, and learn together.

We began 2020 by finishing Richard Rohr's (with Joseph Martos) "The Great Themes of Scripture: The Old Testament". We then began its sequel "The Great themes of Scripture" The New Testament". We found these

good reads and well worth our time. When we pick up where we left off, we hope others will know they're always welcome.

Eloise Hochwalt

St. Mark's Annual Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2020

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:22am following the service at 9:00am.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Gaston opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. **Determination of a Quorum** – A quorum was declared, with 52 eligible parishioners present.
4. **Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules**
 - Speaking rules were declared and adopted. Old and New Business item discussions were limited to 30 minutes and remarks were limited to 3 minutes each.
5. **Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**
 - Judy Hixon made a **motion** to waive the reading of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Barrie Thorp and the motion was approved.
 - Judy Hixon made a **motion** to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Barrie Thorp and the motion was approved.
6. **Appointment of Tellers** – Tellers were not needed, as the candidates were running unopposed.
7. **Report of the Nominating Committee**
 - Nominees for the Class of 2020 are Beth Crowl, Bruce Hixon, and Marcia Kiesling.
8. **Opening of Polls**
 - Sue Little made a **motion** to elect the three candidates by voice vote. Kathy Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and all three candidates were elected unanimously.
9. **Interim Rector's Report**
 - Fr. Gaston's report was covered in his homily and is included in the handout with the Annual Committee Reports.
10. **Wardens' Reports**
 - Senior Warden Derek Gordon recognized outgoing Vestry members Sara Strattan and Christy Thorley and thanked them for their dedication and service.
 - Derek also thanked the ongoing and new Vestry members for their dedication and service.
 - Derek's full report is included in the printed Annual Report handout.
 - Junior Warden Rhonda Warren's report is included in the printed Annual Report handout.
11. **Search Committee Report (Joe Hoot)**
 - The Search Committee continues to meet when necessary. We have not received candidates from the Diocese in the last year. Unfortunately, there are currently more jobs available than there are clergy looking for jobs. We are advertising and updating our website to attract candidates.
 - Joe thanked everyone for their patience, and Derek thanked Joe and the Committee for their communication.
12. **2019 Financial Report and 2020 Missional Budget (handout)**
 - Finance Committee member John Willoughby commented on the 2019 Financial Report and the 2019 Missional Budget as outlined in the handouts. We have had a good year financially, due primarily to the savings realized from having a part-time Interim Rector instead of the full-time rector for which we had budgeted. Pledges received were more than what was budgeted, and we did a good job controlling expenses throughout the year.
13. **Closing of Polls** – Not needed
14. **Reports from the Tellers** – None needed
15. **Old Business** – None

16. New Business

- **Bylaws Change – Proposed Language**

- A change to the Bylaws is proposed to allow the Junior and Senior Wardens to continue in their positions until we have a new rector. The language is as follows:
 - In the time of transition where a permanent rector is not in place, the Vestry may choose to temporarily appoint the Senior and Junior Warden beyond their respective terms by a majority vote. The duration of this temporary appointment should last no more than three months beyond the start date of the new rector. These positions shall be in addition to the normal number of Vestry members and shall not reduce the number of seats available for new Vestry members. These positions shall retain voting rights during their temporary appointment.
- Fr. Gaston commented that the proposed Bylaws change is a fairly routine adjustment in a situation of transition in order to maintain continuity.
- Carol Hayn **motioned** to approve the change in the Bylaws. Tom Turner seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- Carol Hayn expressed gratitude to Fr. Gaston for stepping up and doing much more than was originally intended when he accepted the position of part-time Interim Priest.
- Bob Kennedy announced that there is a lot of cut wood on our property from the power company cutting trees and it is free to anyone who wants it.

17. **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Gaston closed the meeting with a prayer.

18. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:42am by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk



2020 Financial Report and 2021 Missional Budget

Missional Operating Budget

St. Mark's mission statement reflects this community's discernment of God's call as members of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement. Mission statements do not reflect where we are, rather where we feel called to go. A budget reflects where we are financially. Income and revenue speak to how we as the St. Mark's community value our mission and are willing and able to financially support our mission. Expenses reflect how we utilize that bounty of funds to pursue God's call. Allocation of expenditures to each of our four mission areas allows us to reflect on how we are fulfilling the various aspects of our mission and to determine if adjustments should be made. This examination is not just about money, but also the energy, time, and gifts of St. Mark's clergy, staff, and lay persons.

As St. Mark's welcomes our new Rector Father RJ Johnson and we begin our journey out of the COVID-19 crisis, the Finance Committee offers this 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Missional Budget. It is not only a tool to analyze our financial realities, but more importantly to launch consideration of how we are responding to God's call for us as a community to pursue both "inward-focused aspects of mission (worship; teaching; pastoral care; fellowship), and ... outward aspects (evangelism; outreach; advocacy)." Susan Snook, *Aligning Money with Mission*, March 2017 http://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/612/aligning-money-with-mission#_ftn1

Mission of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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

2020 Financial Reports

Dear Parishioners,

Throughout 2020 I have worked closely with the Finance Committee, the Trustees, the Vestry, and our Interim Rector, Paul Gaston, to receive, care for, and properly distribute the financial resources you have provided to support the mission of St. Mark's. This report has been designed to provide you with a clear and accessible picture of what resources have been received and how they have been used to further our work. Please do not hesitate to ask me or any member of the Finance Committee about this report or any other financial matter.

A special thank you to John Willoughby, Sara Strattan, Norm Warren, Kathy Kennedy and Geoff Gordon for their support and work on the Finance Committee as we worked through two major capital improvement projects (repaving the parking lot and replacing another heating boiler). Geoff Gordon accepted a calling to the finance committee in January of 2020. Norm Warren resigned from the committee last fall when he and Rhonda moved to Florida.

Overall, it has been an excellent year financially. Operating income exceeded operating expenses by \$32,266. It is important to recognize the significant amount of work done by Katie Kuceyeski, our office manager, and by Derek Gordon, Rhonda Warren and Grace Giammarco, our wardens. Only though their efforts has it been possible for us to manage with a part time rector.

After reviewing the year, we find that there are a number of things which stand out. Among them are:

- Personnel savings: The budget called for a full-time rector during 2020. With Paul Gaston serving as part time Interim Rector, we had only provided exceptional leadership and spiritual growth, but also achieved significant growth in operating cash to provide future funding for St. Mark's full-time rector.
- Donations: The COVID-19 crises had a significant financial impact on donations in 2020. Pledge donations were nearly 10% less than pledged. When combined with the loss of projected non-pledged donations, income was down by over \$26,000.
- Grants / Loans: The capital improvement loan from the Diocese was paid off early. Again, this year we received a grant from the Diocese of \$1,400 to fund outreach efforts at the Stark County Fair (will be held over for 2021 fair). We applied for and received a new grant and loan from the Diocese, each for \$25,758, to pay for the parking lot and boiler work.
- Outreach Activities: COVID-19 also had a significant impact on our Outreach activities. Personal involvement was limited if any. Thanksgiving Baskets and Community Christmas asked for only cash donations this year. Weaver school was temporarily given additional space to meet state safety guidelines and continue operation. As you read in Lions Pause and The Hope Chest report, St. Mark's with inspiration from Bradley Mull raised over \$2,800 in support of the Hope Outreach Christmas project.
- Restoration Campaign: **What A Success!** Congratulation to each and every person who supported the capital campaign. All identified projects have been completed. All bills are paid. Funds from the Trust have been returned. The loan from the Diocese has been repaid. The remaining \$36,919 raised has been transferred to the Reserve for Capital Improvements.
- SBA-PPP Loan: We obtained an \$18,700 SBA PPP loan and successfully filed for forgiveness.
- Capital Improvements: In early spring of 2020 our Building and Grounds team identified two critical projects – parking lot resurfacing and No. 1 boiler replacement. Leveraging our reserves for capital improvement, we obtained a new grant and loan from the Diocese, and the work has been completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

2020 Missional Operating Budget Performance

		2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Variation		
Revenue and reserves						
1	Plate Offering	\$ 2,000	\$ 518	\$ (1,482)	COVID - Lack of in-person services	
2	Pledge Payments	\$ 173,898	\$ 157,636	\$ (16,262)	COVID - Lack of in-person services	
3	Non-Pledged Income	\$ 22,000	\$ 10,339	\$ (11,661)	COVID - Lack of in-person services	
4	Miscellaneous/Interest	\$ 2,000	\$ 22,940	\$ 20,940	SBA - PPP loan forgiveness \$18,700	
5	Weaver Rent	\$ 33,600	\$ 33,600	\$ -	New 5-year contract August 2019	
6	Service/Outreach Donations	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,445</u>	<u>\$ 6,445</u>	Funds that are donated for special outreach projects.	
7	Total Budget Revenue	\$ 234,498	\$ 232,478	\$ (2,020)		
Expenses						
1	Clergy	\$ 110,167	\$ 62,322	\$ 47,845	Reduced cost due to part time interim clergy	
2	Music	\$ 16,794	\$ 16,136	\$ 658	Salary, music, and instrument maintenance	
3	Office/Administration	\$ 42,594	\$ 43,110	\$ (516)	Salary and office administration cost	
4	Paid Nursery Attendant	\$ 1,325	\$ -	\$ 1,325	Parents covered when required	
5	Altar Supplies	\$ 550	\$ 328	\$ 222	Supplies, does not include flowers	
6	Christian Education	\$ 1,500	\$ 376	\$ 1,124	Adult and youth	
7	Diocesan Assessment	\$ 29,777	\$ 21,373	\$ 8,404	Lower expenses, lower assessment	
8	Hospitality/Fellowship	\$ 2,000	\$ 294	\$ 1,706	Planned events - no charge or free-will offering	
9	Marketing / Advertising	\$ 1,000	\$ 693	\$ 307	Social media and newspaper	
10	Evangelism/Mission Outreach	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,288.95	\$ 1,211	Evangelism and outreach programs - no fair booth in 2020	
11	Rector Transition Expense	\$ 11,000	\$ 13,248	\$ (2,248)	Success! We will not need in 2021 budget	
12	Building Maintenance	\$ 61,840	\$ 47,222	\$ 14,618	Natural gas, electric, & maintenance - all under budget.	
13	Service/Outreach Distribution	\$ -	\$ 7,445	\$ (7,445)	Donations collected and forwarded for special causes	
14	Capital Reserve Funding	<u>\$ 18,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,000</u>		Reduced due to Restoration Campaign monies	
15	Total Expenses	\$ 299,047	\$ 221,834			
16	Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (64,549)	\$ 10,644			
Funding:						
17	Operating Reserve	\$ 28,166	\$ -		No funds required from either source do to part-time priest arrangement.	
18	Funds from St. Mark's Trust	\$ 36,383	\$ -			
Mission Area Review						
		2020 Budget	Mission Percent	2020 Actual	Mission Percent	
1	Worship	\$ 111,878	37%	\$ 84,727	38%	Clergy, music, office, nursery, marketing, building
2	Fellowship	\$ 29,319	10%	\$ 20,301	9%	Clergy, music, office, hospitality, marketing, building
3	Education	\$ 28,206	9%	\$ 18,584	8%	Clergy, music, office, marketing, building
4	Service	<u>\$ 129,644</u>	<u>43%</u>	<u>\$ 98,223</u>	<u>44%</u>	Clergy, office, diocesan support, building, outreach
5	Totals	\$ 299,047	100%	\$ 221,834	100%	

2020 Capital Reserve				
Reserve for Capital Expenses Balance December 31, 2019			\$ 86,454	1
2020 Revenue				
2020 Restoration Campaign Contributions	\$	2,699		
2020 Interest Income	\$	1,031		
Special Gifts - Capital Improvements	\$	12,000		
2020 Operating Budget Contribution	\$	8,000		
Grant From the Diocese of Ohio	\$	25,758		
Loan from the Diocese of Ohio	\$	25,758		
Total Revenue			\$ 75,246	
2020 Expenditures				
Refinish Parking Lot (plus loan and grant)	\$	56,642		
New Boiler -	\$	24,870		
2020 Diocese of Ohio Loan - payments	\$	3,290		
2020 Diocese of Ohio Loan - interest	\$	210		
HVAC Motor Replacement	\$	1,758		
2018 Diocese of Ohio Loan - paid off	\$	4,929		
2018 Diocese of Ohio Loan - interest	\$	13		
Total Expenditures			\$ 91,712	
Reserve for Capital Expenses Balance December 31, 2020			\$ 69,988	2
Notes:				
1 Includes \$37,000 from 2017 Restoration Campaign				
2 Capital Expense Liabilities (payable by 12/2025)				
Loan from the Diocese of Ohio	\$	22,468		
Diocese of Ohio Loan interest	\$	3,000		
Total Capital Expenses Liabilities			\$ 25,468	

Restoration Campaign - Success

In the Fall of 2017, St. Mark's started the Restoration Campaign to raise \$150,000 over 3 years (2018 - 2020) for six identified capital projects and to replenish the reserve fund for future capital improvements. The campaign raised over \$40,000 in pre-campaign pledges which has grown to \$110,328 after many of our generous parishioners pledged. That says a lot about our church family and what this church means to us. Thank you!!

YOU DID IT. Since the start of the 2018 campaign, with pledges, one-time donations, church organization contributions, parishioners exceeding their pledge commitment and the grant from the Diocese of Ohio, the Restoration Campaign has received a total of \$153,174 as of 12/31/2020.

You will see in the chart below that the six identified capital projects have been completed thanks to your donations, funding advanced from the Trust, and a loan and grant from the Diocese of Ohio. All money borrowed from the Trust and the Diocese of Ohio has been returned.

Congratulations and thank you for your support. Thanks to your gifts and dedication to the Restoration Campaign \$36,939 was added to the Capital Reserve account. Your support enabled St. Mark's to repave the parking lot and replace another one of the two boilers.

St. Mark's Restoration Campaign			
Project	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Status
Sanctuary Roof	\$32,340	\$32,340	✓
Sanctuary HVAC controls	\$4,463	\$4,463	✓
Office renovations	\$3,500	\$3,298	✓
Legal, security, and other preparations for Weaver School	\$20,500	\$20,681	✓
Nursery Renovations	\$6,000	\$7,420	✓
HVAC units for office, main entrance, old puppet room, library, family room, and choir room	\$55,500	\$47,422	✓
Reserves for future capital improvements	\$27,697	\$36,939	✓
Total Restoration Campaign Goal: \$150,000			
*This is the amount that can be put into reserves IF we reach our total goal of \$150,000.			

Respectfully Submitted by Emily Gordon and Charlie Kiesling on behalf of the Committee (Kirk Bletzacker, Derek Gordon, Emily Gordon, Joe Hoot, Charlie Kiesling, Sara Strattan, and Chuck Violand)

TRUSTEES

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. With the creation of the trust, past parishioners wanted to set up a tool to benefit the church and a vehicle to provide funds for projects and needs beyond normal operating requirements.

During this roller coaster of a year, St Mark's Trust was the recipient of a generous gift by Richard and Marcia Tirpak. We truly appreciate their generosity and commitment to God's work through St Mark's.

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 2020 were:

- Rick Werren (Chairman)
- Geoff Gordon (Treasurer)
- Rick Crowl (Secretary)
- Maggie Holihan
- Leigh Wilson
- Drew Pelger.

Drew Pelger joined the board mid-year replacing Leigh Wilson. Maggie Holihan assumes the chairmanship and Charlie Kiesling joins the board in 2021 as Rick Werren's term ends.

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

Rick Werren

2021 Missional Operating Budget

**2021
Budget**

Revenue and reserves

1	Plate offering	\$ 800	June return to normal services
2	Pledge payments	\$ 165,880	71 pledges - 8 less than 2020
3	Non-pledged income	\$ 5,000	COVID - Lack of inperson services
4	Miscellaneous/interest	\$ 2,000	
5	Weaver rent	\$ 33,850	New 5-year contract August 2019 yearly increases
6	Service/outreach donations	\$ 2,000	Funds donated for special outreach projects.
7	Total Budget Revenue	\$ 209,530	

Expenses

1	Clergy	\$ 122,137	Salary and benefits
2	Music	\$ 17,104	Salary, music, and instrument maintenance
3	Office/administration	\$ 44,454	Salary and office administration cost
4	Paid nursery attendant	\$ 300	Parents covered when required
5	Altar supplies	\$ 550	Supplies, does not include flowers
6	Christian education	\$ 1,200	Adult and youth
7	Diocesan assessment	\$ 29,418	Support for the wider out reach of the Episcopal Church
8	Hospitality/fellowship	\$ 2,000	Planned events - no charge or free-will offering
9	Marketing /advertising	\$ 1,000	Social media and newspaper
10	Evangelism / mission out	\$ 3,000	Evangelism and outreach programs - no fair booth in 2020
12	Building maintenance	\$ 55,526	Natural gas, electric, and maintenance cost all under budget.
13	Service / outreach distrib	\$ 2,000	Donations collected and forwarded for special causes
14	Capital reserve funding	\$ 8,000	Capital reserve funding
15	Total Expenses	\$ 286,689	
16	Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (77,159)	

Funding:

17	Operating Reserve	\$ 21,953	No funds required from either source do to part time priest
18	St. Mark's Trust	\$ 55,206	Monthly withdrawals starting March 2021
		\$ 77,159	

Mission Area Review

		2021 Budget	Mission Percent	
1	Worship	\$ 110,883	39%	Clergy, music, office, nursery, marketing, building
2	Fellowship	\$ 29,195	10%	Clergy, music, office, hospitality, marketing, building
3	Education	\$ 29,103	10%	Clergy, music, office, marketing, building
4	Service	\$ 117,509	41%	Clergy, office, dicesesan support, building, outreach pass throughs
5	Totals	\$ 286,689	100%	

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