

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Annual Report 2015



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Canton, OH 44709
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330.499.2662

St. Mark's 2015 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 24th 2016

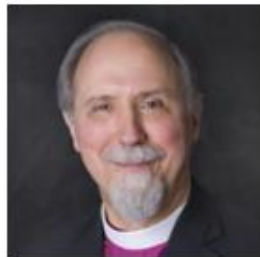
1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules
5. Reading of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes
6. Appointment of Tellers
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls
9. Clergy Report
10. Committee Reports
11. Finances
12. Closing of Polls
13. Report from the Tellers
14. Old Business
15. New Business
16. Closing Prayer
17. Adjournment

The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

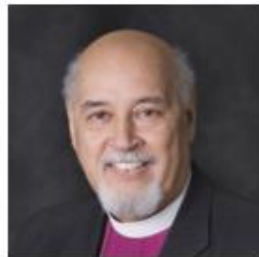
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The Rt. Rev. Mark
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Bishop of Ohio
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The Rt. Rev. William D.
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Bishop of Chicago, Retired
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The Rt. Rev. Arthur B.
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William A. Powell III
Canon to the Ordinary
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The Rev. Percy Grant
Canon for Ministry
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Eva Cole
Administrative Assistant
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The Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert
Archivist
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216-774-0465



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 2016 (&ending term)

Dave Thorley (Sr. Warden)	2017
Caroline Willoughby (Clerk)	2017
Joe Hoot	2017
Ten Gall	2018
Gary Giammarco	2018
Kathy Kennedy	2018

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

Outgoing Vestry Members:

Emily Gordon: Jr. Warden
 Alex “Moose” Violand
 Dick Croasdaile
 Tom Temelkoff

Sandy Paradis & Jan Hudson: Puppet Directors
 Carol Popovich and Susie Hines: Wedding
 Coordinators
 Riley Kiesling: Nursery Attendant
 Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager

2015 Parish Services – Statistics:

Total attendance at all services: 5, 537

Easter attendance: 186
 Christmas attendance: 181

Burials: 2
 Baptisms: 5
 Weddings: 1

Average Sunday attendance: 101

REPORTS

Rector's Annual Report for 2015

Annual Meeting – January 24, 2016

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

Greetings to the family of God at St. Mark's,

Around this time of year when I come to the point of reviewing our ministry together during the last twelve months, it occurs to me that we might call this the "State of the Parish". I will be unable to summarize all of our activities, but instead, intend to report some highlights and to cast a vision for what may be on the path ahead of us.

You all know that there is work to do, that it takes the hands and hearts of many to build up the kingdom of God in this place. And for all of those many hours that you put in, thank you. Ministry is always a team effort, and we could not any of us do what we do without relying on one another. Be always thankful for the gifts that we all bring to our worship, fellowship, education, and service.

During 2015 we witnessed several transitions. Our office assistant, Stephanie Stallman, and finance assistant, Kelli Mossgrove, concluded their service with us. Then in April, Katie Kuceyeski began as our Office Manager, combining the duties of both former positions. She has added a wealth of knowledge, experience, insight, and efficiency to our administrative operations, with gifts especially in organization, social media, marketing, and design. Her efforts have already helped us to save over \$3,000 per year in expenses, and she has suggested a number of ways of reaching the local community in new and creative ways. You will see her here on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

It was also during this year that the Episcopal Church held its triennial General Convention. As many of you know, this is a weeklong gathering of all bishops of the church, along with delegates from each of our 108 dioceses. General Convention considers and legislates the work of the church as a whole, and reforms and/or amends procedures and structures as needed. Along with major committee reforms, this year's convention also authorized the churchwide use of liturgies for same-sex weddings. This determination coincided almost to the day with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirming marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples. While certainly a set of transitions, these actions were expected and represent ongoing work toward inclusion and equality for which the Episcopal Church is known.

As many of you know, one of the jobs of the church as an institution is to bless the world, to participate in God's redeeming work beyond our doors. When I consider some of our events through the ministry of St. Mark's that have taken place, either here at the church or at other locations, I continue to be struck by how many persons are being impacted by that work that we do. Consider, for example, just the musical events held during 2015, and the variety of

people who were able to experience the joy of this Spirit-filled community because of them. From our “Two Men and a Bench” and “Age vs. Youth, Round 2” concerts to the weekend of celebrations around our beloved Maestro Bob Morrison’s 90th birthday, we sang and gave praise and voice to our Creator and Lord, entering in to one of those pillars of the Church’s work: **worship**.

Participating in the worship of God makes us realize the second pillar of the work that we do: **fellowship**. Though I hardly need to remind you, we are a church family that enjoys one another’s company. If there were an award for eating and socializing together, I suspect that we would win! Give yourselves a pat on the back, since this is not always the case in a parish family. We sang together (Songs & Suds), enjoyed beverages together (Canton Brewing Company tour), sang some more, jazzed it up on a beautiful Friday evening in August (Brews, Blues, & BBQ), drank beverages together again (Oktoberfest), and helped to build up the relationships we share with one another while doing these things. Eating and socializing together, and being able to do these things, help to make us who we are!

Praising our God and extending the hospitality and friendship of our church family is also one of the ways that we learn of the ways of God. We strive to inform ourselves of the building blocks of Christian community, of what it means to be Christian and how we can better live that life. For instance, we found ourselves in sometimes passionate but fruitful and rewarding conversations during Lent, with our program *Animate: Practices*. Then, we reminded ourselves once again what the ministries of our church are, through our Ministry Fair (now in its third year). These building blocks are part of what it means to strive to do Christian **education** well.

This will come as no surprise, but we are also an incredibly generous congregation, with a hefty list of ongoing outreach and service commitments. At some level we all know that it is, in fact, our duty as Christian people to be generous, to our neighbors and the world in need. Toward these efforts I am pleased this year to include our new Thankful Thursdays, which helps to supply needy school children and their families with groceries and hygiene products when they otherwise might go without. This year also saw our second year of **service** at the Stark County Fair, with our parents’ feeding and changing station. Way to go!

Within these four areas that comprise the pillars of our mission, I’m sure you can find other examples. And you should. Those ministries listed here are meant as examples to encourage you and to strengthen your commitment as the people of God in this place to live out your collective Christian identity. We also can, and will, make better use of, and reference to, how our work together furthers that mission. We need to learn it, rehearse it, repeat it, and make sure that what we’re doing fits with that sense of who we are and who God is calling us to be.

It will also come as no surprise that St. Mark’s faces a number of challenges. In this regard, I can assure you, we are not unique. But we are also blessed with a committed congregation. (Fun fact: did you know that ***of all the congregations in the Episcopal Church [around 6,500], St. Mark’s is in the top 30%***? That’s right... 70% of all Episcopal churches, nationwide, are smaller than us.) In our culture at large, religious identity is becoming less significant for many, and this is a trend with which we must compete. It means asking hard questions like, “What does it mean to be a Christian, and why/how in *this church*?” Budgets are tight. You will be made aware, both in the annual meeting and in this report itself, that we continue to draw from some of our reserve funds to meet our expenses. Many of you have also identified the need for increased transparency and communication in our finances, as well as a streamlined and improved communications strategy overall. And we continue various kinds of efforts and programs designed to be an active

presence in our community, with face-to-face relationships with those whom we serve and interact. While these are certainly challenges to be addressed, I am confident that with the talent in this church, we can face them.

You will read, and hear, that much has happened in our life together in the last twelve months. Much lies before us. And as you well know, there is work to do... good work – of worshiping God, enjoying one another's fellowship, learning and growing in the ways of God and of our Christian selves, and of serving the world. We are being called to dive in with both feet to the mission that God has set before us in this place. We are up to the challenges.

Our new presiding bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, said in his sermon at his installation in Washington National Cathedral, that he believes the Holy Spirit of God still has work for the Episcopal Church to do. I believe he is right, and I believe his charge to the church as a whole extends to us here in Canton as well. God asks us to trust him, and to take risks to follow where we discern, together, that he may be calling forth our best efforts to shine his light. We have proven that we can. We are up for it, and so is our God.

Faithfully,

–Fr. Dustin+

Puppet Ministry Report for 2015

During the past year our Puppet Gang Ministry has been active at St. Marks. We continue to be supported by ECW with their \$300 donation each year. We had 2 performances again this year. Our spring performance in May was "St. Mark's Idol" and our Christmas show in December was "Christmas at Red Rock Ridge". We combine the Sunday school students and the Puppet Gang members for the Christmas performance to provide a very enjoyable program. For the Christmas performance we had approximately 100 in the audience and near 80 for the spring performance. Cookies and Beverages were provided for the audience and a special treat was provided for the little ones.

Our members include Morgan Wilson, Even Jenkins, Colin Jenkins, Alexis Wilson, Nathaniel Clark, Lauren Hoot, Skyler Hudson, Bradley Mull, Brooks Deuble and Fletcher Clark. Sandy Paradis and Jan Hudson continue to direct the group. Wayne Paradis continues to record all the performances. DVD's of the Performances are available to borrow and view from the Church Library. A special thanks is extended to the Sunday school leaders (Linda Deuble, Livvy Mull, Pam Clark and Sharon Ryan). Another thanks is extended to the Parish and the ECW for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Paradis and Jan Hudson

Cluster Dinner Report for 2015

Cluster Dinner groups are fellowship opportunities outside of church. Parishioners indicate that they want to be part of a group by signup sheet or email. Groups meet once a month for 3 months, usually in each other's homes for a potluck or meet at a restaurant. A record number of parishioners signed up for the past 3 autumn months – 36! – 15 couples and 6 singles.

Due to the wintry weather and a few snowbirds that don't want to be left out, the groups go on "hiatus" or they catch up for January and February. New groups will be formed in early February to begin meeting in March.

Thanks to all who have hosted/organized these groups. It's a blessing to offer hospitality as well as to accept it. Cluster Dinner groups are a good way to get to know and to support each other.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling

UTO Report for 2015

United Thank Offering was begun over 125 years ago by two Episcopal women to enable the church's missionary work. It is a DAILY reflection of our thankfulness to God for blessings in our lives as well as the blessings of family and friends. UTO is a worldwide opportunity to express our gratitude by being generous with our contributions. Every penny donated is dispersed through local and international grants.

Totals from St. Mark's:

Spring Ingathering \$719.25 and Fall Ingathering \$832.67 from more than 50 contributors, for a yearly total of \$1,551.92.

Here is a paragraph from the winter edition of Church Life:

At the ECW Triennial Convention in the summer of 2015, the Diocese of Ohio was recognized for increasing its level of UTO contributions for each year of the triennium (2012, 2013, 2014). What's more, our Diocese recorded the highest level of contributions of all of the dioceses in Province V. That is quite an achievement, and we thank everyone who participated in these UTO Ingatherings for your generosity!

If anyone has a suggestion for a parish project that meets the criteria, grant applications are due by Feb 19, 2016. Info is available at www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering. Questions are referred to Barbara Jones, Dio. Of Ohio, UTO Coordinator at shadowoak2199@zoominternet.net or 330-793-0540.

In our own daily prayers of thanksgivings, let us also pray for the grantors and grantees.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Kennedy

MaryAnn Kiesling

Amelia Rowland

Co-chairs

Acolyte Report for 2015

The acolyte ministry is alive and well at St. Mark's. This particular ministry originated during the third century. Our St. Mark's acolytes add so much to each worship service with their purpose and dedication. They also set the tone for reverence and solemnity.

Our acolytes participated in approximately 110 services during 2015. The acolytes for 2015 were: Marilyn Thorp, Charlie Kiesling, Joe Hoot, Karen Violand, Susie Hines, Delaney Ryan, Sharon Ryan, Rachel Crowl, Justin Crowl, Morgan Wilson, Alexis Wilson, Ben Kiesling, Leslie Kiesling, Evan Jenkins, Colin Jenkins, Lauren Hoot, Nathaniel Clark, and Cody Popovich. I always like to say thank you to all the parents who bring the young acolytes early to serve on Sundays when they are scheduled.

In 2016, we will lose three acolytes: Morgan Wilson, Ben Kiesling, and Evan Jenkins are graduating from high school and will be heading off to college. As always, I welcome any new acolyte—seventh grade and older.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary L. Giammarco

Acolyte Advisor

Publicity Committee Report 2015

In an effort to keep St. Mark's Episcopal Church's name in the public eye, press releases for all major events were sent to The Repository and the Beacon Journal, and in some cases, to indeonline and to the Alliance Review, and North Neighbor News.

- Winterfest Dinner Concert – January 16

Featuring local organists Chad Pittman and Mark Thewes. "Two Men and a Bench" was an organ duet of classical and newly composed music, with Pittman and Thewes sharing the organ and bench. It began at 7:30, following dinner downstairs at 5:30 (organized and prepared by Carol Popovich and her capable crew. A press release was written (including attached biographies of Mr. Pittman and Mr. Thewes.) Both The Repository and the Beacon Journal ran nearly the entire release in religion news. There was a very nice turnout for the event.

- Holy Week services at St. Mark's – March 29 - April 5

The full schedule of Holy Week services was sent to the papers.

- Round Two of Dinner & a Concert: Youth vs. Age – July 24

The free concert was a musical contest from Bach to Boogie on piano and organ, featuring Jackson Carruthers, 19, and Robert W. Morrison, 89. It began at 7:30 p.m., following dinner at 6 p.m., again organized by Carol Popovich and crew. Once again, both major papers ran nearly the entire release and it was another crowded event.

- Keyboard Showcase Oct. 2 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church – October 2

Bob Morrison's 90th birthday weekend began with a Keyboard Showcase at 7:30 p.m. There was no charge for the event. The extravaganza featured five players on six keyboards: Jackson Carruthers, Chad Pittman, Mark Thewes, and St. Mark's own Bob Morrison and Rev. Dustin Berg. The church was packed!

At the Oct. 4 service, Bob was presented with a plaque commemorating his 90th birthday. It included a photo of the congregation and our very best wishes. Bill Rand took the photo and I arranged for the plaques to be produced (by Massillon Plaque).

- St. Mark's Stark County Fair Booth (Both traditional and social media)

I sent a press release on our Fair Booth for baby-changing and feeding and The Repository included the entire release and gave it great positioning in the paper.

Then, while working the fair booth the first day, I photographed a young mom with her little one coming out of the booth and with her permission, posted it to St. Mark's Facebook page. The last time I checked (while the fair was still in session), the photo and post had received more than 300 comments and shares. When I worked the booth a second time, a young woman told me she had seen it posted on the LaLeche League's website!

The power of social media is now being felt at St. Mark's as our office assistant, Katie Kuceyeski, is a social media wizard. In addition to Facebook, she posts on Twitter and Instagram and has them all integrated so that they connect to our website.

In addition, Katie now does much of the press release work. I just work on the big projects. Thank you, Katie!

Everyone can help publicize St. Mark's events. If you take any great pictures (and with smartphones, it's easy to do that!), please let Katie know. She may just figure out a way to use it on our website or our Facebook page!

Respectfully submitted,
PAM McCarthy

Fellowship Report for 2015

The year of 2015 was a step down from previous years, though the year started out good. January saw a wonderful Winterfest concert and dinner with dueling organists. We were host to 117 guests.

February led us into the Lenten season with our sausage/pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, and followed with our Lenten potluck suppers and lessons. We averaged around 17-25 in attendance. We merged into March continuing our potluck suppers. Our Palm Sunday Brunch had approximately 50 in attendance. We finished out Holy Week with a Maundy Thursday potluck supper. Easter vigil was celebrated with strawberries, cheese, crackers, and champagne.

Things were quiet until July with the Sermon on the Mount and our annual picnic with approximately 48 in attendance. We then enjoyed "Round 2- Youth vs. Age" with our beloved organist Bob, and pianist Jackson, with summer dinner followed by their fantastic concert.

In August and September we had our fair booth with a baby feeding and changing station. This year we improved our booth with 2 sections and an improved décor, making it more baby friendly. We were very welcomed by many, made a big splash on Facebook, and were thanked by many for the services we provided. More than 120 babies and their families utilized our booth. Looking forward to a bigger and better 2016 fair with your help.

Unfortunately our annual Oktoberfest was very down in attendance this year. However, all and any who attended had a great time with good music, good beer, and good food.

November brought us All Saints Brunch. Proceeds were donated to Thankful Thursday to help students at Schreiber Elementary School. We had approximately 55 attending. We ended the year with a bake sale on Voting Day.

Thank you to all and any who either attended, assisted, and/or worked during all and any of the fellowship events, you are very appreciated!

My hope is that you will continue to back your fellowship events during 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Popovich

Aluminum Can Annual Report 2015

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

Photography Report for 2015

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” It has been a pleasure and privilege to share my small gift of photography to record some of this year’s events in the life of the Family of St. Mark’s. Some of these opportunities include baptisms, ministry fair, booth at the Stark County Fair, Family photo, celebration of Dr. Morrison’s 90th birthday, special musical events, recognition of senior acolytes, photos for Dorothy Cromb’s 95th birthday, Pancake Supper, the blessing of the animals out door service, brew club events, dinners, vestry member photos, and photos of various aspects of Sunday services.

With gratitude,
Bill Rand

Community Harvest Report for 2015

Community Harvest has served Stark County as a sustainable, community-led solution to fight 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 and healthy food to 32 community-based organizations in Stark County. Last year, Community Harvest rescued over \$1.7 million in food and delivered approximately 1 million meals to our hungry neighbors in Stark County.

St. Mark's has been a proud partner with Community Harvest for 9 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 2015

What a good year, so what happened? We had a fence around the playground, sold it! We had a large shed at the rear entrance, sold it! Word is it’s going to be used at Holly Hills Baseball fields. What a great use – and they even came and picked it up.

We entered into a contract to clean and maintain the landscape. I have heard from a lot of you as to how nice it looks and we thank you. This will be finished in the spring with some other areas getting done then.

We now have a chair lift in the stairwell. This was a donation from Dorothy Cromb’s family, and what a great gift to St Mark’s! Another great gift to us was the lighting of the St Mark’s Episcopal Church on

the wall to the right of the main entrance. We fixed one flagpole and moved it, now we don't have to replace the flag every 3 months. Also, we had the lighting fixed on them.

We installed one baby changing station, in the family restroom on the main floor, and we also have another one for the family restroom downstairs. (What? We have a family restroom downstairs?!? Yes we do! It's a little tricky to find though. Please ask – we would be glad to tell or show you.) How nice to need these! We trimmed some trees, fixed potholes in the parking lot, and had some maintenance on our cooling & heating systems. These things happen here, just like at your home.

Please feel free to donate to the Building & Grounds. Maybe you see something you liked and think – hey, I could donate \$10, \$20, or more because you liked it. Just put Building & Grounds in the memo line on your check.

Also, I don't see everything, but we have a great crew that gets these and other projects done. Please feel free to leave a note in my mailbox, or email the office. Katie does a great job with getting info to the correct people.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Hoot

Lay Readers Report 2015

St. Mark's continues to be well served by a dedicated group of laypersons serving as Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors and we always have room for more. We have a special need for Eucharistic Ministers for the eight o'clock service.

Any member of the congregation, high school age or older who is looking for an opportunity to utilize their talents in the service of the church, should talk to Father Berg or Bruce Hixon about becoming a member of this group.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce A. Hixon
Head Lay Reader

Lazarus Committee Report 2015: 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 2015 Report

In the congenial atmosphere of St. Mark's Canton it has been a privilege for eighteen years to minister through music in this portion of God's vineyard: "congenial" in that, with a musically gifted priest and dedicated volunteers, your musician feels rewarded for his service, and especially this year with the gorgeous plaque given on his ninetieth birthday and celebrative events surrounding it.

Highlights: a monumental DVD of my life prepared by Bill Rand who also took the color photo that graced the plaque; January dinner and a concert with Chef Carol and virtuoso pianist Jackson Carruthers who appeared again July 24; several cluster dinners; choir parties at Thorp's; guest singers and players notably composer/organist Robert Hebble and conductor Chuck Zettler, pianist/double bass/singer Charles A. Reiman, son Danny and wife Mary Lou, tenor David J. White, Blaise Warren, organ duo Chad Pittman and Mark A. Thewes, organ duos with Father Berg (who also played flute) at Easter and Christmas, Catherine Dillon, in addition to our regulars-- Frances Swinehart, Sandi Kaustinen, Cantor Ken Jaeb, Robert Karl Bortz, Caroline Willoughby, and resident timpanist John Gregory.

Our roster in addition to the above: Leslie Redmon, Pam McCarthy, Beck Rand (librarian), Louise Moore (handbell specialist), Dr. Norman Warren, Barrie Thorp, Barbara Siegfried, Charles Violand, and ringers Bobbi, Geoff, Derek, and Emily Cathryn Gordon; Louise Moore; Karen, Moose, Adrienne Violand, Tom Turner.

All of these gifted music-makers have contributed their skills freely in exchange for the privilege of Christian service.

The musical instruments at St. Mark's are remarkable and kept in good condition by piano tech Fred Balzer and organ men Greg and John Lester. Our custodian Lee keeps the choir loft well lighted and office manager Katie has used her exceptional computer skills to prepare brochures for our programs.

It has been rewarding to work with Treasurer Charles Kiesling who advises us on what funds are available for music purchase which has allowed us to increase our choral library by several new anthems this year.

Your parish musician plans to attend a four-day workshop with virtuoso organist Hector Olivera in Sarasota in April.

The Choristers' Prayer: "God of all lovely sound, Grant us a share in thy great harmonies of earth and air. May be thy choristers be, offering worthily, music unto thee."

Respectfully submitted, W. Robert Morrison

Prayer Chain Report 2015

There has been intermittent but continual activity with the Prayer Chain. Please remember to specify your wish when placing someone on the Prayer Chain or Sunday Bulletin's Prayer Concerns, whether they are to be on both lists or just one or the other.

Also, follow-ups and updates are appreciated. Don't forget to let us know when it is time to remove a person from the lists. Regarding the Prayer Chain only... I will update or remove persons annually, based on recent information from the contact person.

Plug into the Power of Prayer!

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Gordon

Growth Committee Annual Report 2015

The purpose of the Growth Committee has evolved to identifying projects to support current members and to welcome visitors and newcomers. The ideas of the projects come from committee members and/or parishioners. The committee does not necessarily execute them but coordinates the ideas and the parishioners' skill sets to initiate and complete them. Often the projects are carried out by members of other committees, i.e. Fellowship, Outreach, Parish Care, etc.

Activity for 2015 - parish bridges: note cards sent to parishioners "missing in the pews" to let folks know that they are remembered, Items for Sale Board located on wall across from office for parishioners to post items that they would like to sell or donate, emails sent out by office for special events, directory updates printed in the bulletin as received by the office, visitor bags ready to welcome newcomers, ongoing discussions of ideas for parish activities and fundraising, 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!

Committee members: Fr Dustin Berg, Jesse Childers, Anne Coen, Ten Gall, Bruce Hixon, MaryAnn Kiesling, Sharon Ryan, Karen Violand, and Rhonda Warren.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling
Sharon Ryan
Co-chairs

Trustees Report 2015

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 2015 were Rick Werren (Chairman), Bob Kocab (Treasurer), Barb Siegfried (Secretary), Mark Nadel, and John Willoughby.

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 2015

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN held their annual luncheon on December 13. A 50-50 raffle was held instead of the usual gift raffle. The winner graciously returned her winnings to the ECW. Our annual Easter baskets (70) for the Y.W.C.A. residents is always greatly appreciated as these women and their custodial children often feel forgotten. Shoe vouchers totaling \$150.00 were donated to the Stark Social Workers' Network plus some 25 bags of toiletries for those clients living out of their cars. (There is greater need in the cold months, so we will again be filling bags and including socks.) We also collect Boxtop for Education coupons to send to Lillian Vallely Episcopal School on the Blackfoot, ID reservation. Ms. Bra Bag hangs in the coatroom to collect new and gently used (aka uncomfortable) bras for the Summit Mission Area. The Summit Mission Area, (of which we have joined with the blessing of Bishop Mark) has sewn comfort pillows for local hospices and is currently sewing baby blankets for Akron Children's Hospital. We made pillowcases and donated them with 20 pillows for the TIQVAH program at St. Paul's, our sister church downtown. A donation of \$300.00 was given in support of the Puppet Gang. We also paid to have all the windows of St. Mark's washed inside and out. Not to be forgotten, we paid our Diocesan and Mission Area dues. Sue Little is president of the E.C.W. of the Summit Mission Area and serves on the Diocesan E.C.W. board.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Knitting Report 2015

KNITTING is held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1-3 in the afternoon in the family room. There are about 6 women who either come to knit or are knitting as a cottage ministry. We sent 65 knitted items to the Seamen's Church Institute in May and they were distributed when the cold weather set in this past fall. We have yarn and are willing to teach you to knit these simple items. Patterns are online at Seamenschurch.org and listed under Christmas At Sea.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Parish Care Report 2015

PARISH CARE is a ministry to assist the bereaved following the funeral of their 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 if providing for future needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Outreach Report 2015

ST. MARK'S OUTREACH has grown by leaps and bounds. If you don't think we do much outreach, please read the list below and the E.C.W. projects listed above. We have, with your generous donations, supported Souperbowl Sunday, Brad's blankets, supplied summer food for children and their school families through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Cleveland Ave., and collected Campbell soup labels for their Navajo project. We collected food and cash for Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown. We are currently providing food and toiletries for designated families at Schreiber Elementary School (which included a fundraiser All Saints' Day brunch here at St. Mark's.) We also provided a Baby Booth at the Stark County Fair for nursing mothers and diapering the children. Carol Popovich planned and executed dinners to raise outreach funds. Our largest outreach is Community Christmas. We provided food vouchers and new gifts for 5 families in our community. Their needs were great, they requested basic items, especially taxable items.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Sunday School Report 2015

We started the 2015 Sunday school year with 8 kids ranging in age from 5-11.

January through May we used a variety of lesson plans from sources like “Lesson Plans That Work” and “Weaving God’s Promise”. The lessons followed the liturgical calendar. The children participated in a variety of activities during Lent to help them understand the meaning of the Lenten Season and Easter. Most lessons are supported by crafts and/or worksheets.

We continued our tradition of H.O.W. (Hands on Worship) the first Sunday of each month. Livy Mull oversees H.O.W. and does a craft or outreach project with the children. An outreach example would be sending Valentine cards to our home bound parishioners.

At the start of the new school year in September we had an enrollment of 7 ranging in age from 3-12. We continue to face the challenge of keeping all the children engaged with such a wide age spread. As a result, we made two changes to the program. The first change was the four oldest boys (ages 11-12) joined the puppet gang. They will continue to do H.O.W. and will attend Sunday school when the puppet gang doesn’t meet.

The second change was to the curriculum. We started a new program “Super Heroes of the Bible”. We will study five heroes of the Old Testament and five heroes of the New Testament. The program has been received well and is much more engaging for the children, especially when we have all the ages represented.

All the children participated in the puppet performance during Christmas which replaced our annual Christmas Pageant several years ago.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Clark

Brew Meisters Group 2015 Report

Just as we did in 2014 St. Mark’s BrewMeisters once again set the social tone for St. Mark’s in 2015.

We kicked the year off with our now annual Songs and Suds in February. This year we added a beer swap to the festivities to encourage all participants to expand their under-attenuated palates. This seems to have worked although I did catch Joe Hoot using some of Al Korosi’s beer to clean out the trap in the kitchen.

In April we celebrated the coming of spring with a private tour of the Canton Brewing Company in downtown Canton. Nearly 60 people showed up for this event with 30% of the revelers being non-St. Mark’s parishioners, and over 50% being women. To show our appreciation to the Canton Brewing Company for their hospitality we presented them with the prestigious St. Mark’s BrewMeister’s Certificate of Approval.

Barbeque, Brews and Blues was our summer picnic held once again outside in the pavilion. This year we enjoyed the humor and musical talents of local artist and former St. Mark’s Daycare student, Willis Gordon. This was a great event attended by thousands! Okay, I might be making that attendance number up, but everyone there did have a good time.

St. Mark's Oktoberfest was once again a hit and a great way to celebrate the fall colors. While yours truly was not able to attend the event to maintain some semblance of order I have it on the best authority that Carol's food was outstanding, the Johnny Maier band kept things lively, and the juiced "Applause-o-meter" operator did not disappoint.

We wrapped the year up on Sunday, December 27th by enjoying "Heritage" brews and Reserve holiday pastries, the BrewMeisters' thinly veiled attempt to rebrand old beer and left over cookies. No matter, with enough beer even dog biscuits taste good.

Irreverantly submitted,
Chuck Violand
Head BrewMeister
January 19, 2016

Wedding Coordinators Report 2015

The afternoon of Saturday, October 17, 2015, was the wedding of Michelle Kennedy, daughter of Robert and Kathy Kennedy, to Howie Patterson. The Reverend Carol S. Fleming presided over the ceremony. It was a lovely wedding!

Coordinating weddings is a delightful and satisfying way of helping our church. Assisting with this year's wedding was a privilege for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Popovich
Susie Hines

Social Media Report 2015

Postings are occurring several times per week on both Facebook and Twitter, infrequently on Instagram until our access to more church photos occurs (which will require groups actively taking photos and sending them to Katie for posting.) Networking has increased with all sites, through the use of social media features such as tagging, hash-tagging, checking in, etc.

Networking has primarily focused on other local churches and businesses.

Facebook followers: 123. In 2015 we ran two major ad campaigns, each generating a few thousand views in the Canton/Akron area. These ran during the Christmas season. **Twitter followers:** 181

Logo rebranding was done to make our social media pages have a modern feel, with a traditional element. Generally well-received. Our website was also restructured to include all of our social media pages, as well as a live Twitter feed of St. Mark's on the static home page.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Kuceyeski

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Overview:

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 Brewmisters delivered \$2,400 to the bottom line. Carol Popovich, her teams, and the brewers performed a spectacular job, thanks to all of you for your support.

2015 Financial Performance:

Our expenses continue to exceed income. The 2015 shortfall of \$36,000 is \$10,000 less than the budgeted \$46,000. This makes the seventh (7) consecutive year the short fall was covered by transferring funds from our Operating Reserve and Reserve for Capital Improvements funds. We have now depleted the Operating Reserve fund.

The projected deficit for 2016 is \$45,468 and will deplete half of our Reserve for Capital Improvements.

Following is a chart showing a four year recap of income/expenses and 2016 forecast. And, a 6 year graph showing our cash and investment funds.

Income vs. Expenses

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget
Income	\$ 194,227	\$ 195,439	\$ 192,789	\$ 205,353	\$ 192,950
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 26,158	\$ 17,920	\$ 20,805	\$ 33,659	\$ 27,500
Clergy(Includes Benefits)	\$ 81,337	\$ 86,884	\$ 87,069	\$ 89,451	\$ 89,472
Other Salaries (Includes Benefits)	\$ 29,289	\$ 31,158	\$ 31,922	\$ 40,705	\$ 42,610
Other expenses	\$ 74,284	\$ 86,793	\$ 75,430	\$ 77,599	\$ 78,836
Total Expenses	\$ 211,068	\$ 222,755	\$ 215,226	\$ 241,414	\$ 238,418
Deficit	-\$16,841	-\$27,316	-\$22,437	-\$36,061	-\$45,468

Cash and Investments



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 YTD
Operating Cash	\$ 36,694	\$ 17,104	\$ 10,530	\$ 16,164	\$ 25,508	\$ -
Cash Reserves	\$191,414	\$169,896	\$162,591	\$145,303	\$127,518	\$ 88,040
Investments	\$352,838	\$354,891	\$379,051	\$424,540	\$424,539	\$443,032
Total Cash&Investments	\$580,946	\$541,891	\$552,172	\$586,007	\$577,565	\$531,072

The 2016 "Way Forward Campaign" is both good news and bad news. There were (3) new pledges and (34) people increased their financial pledge for 2016. The bad news total pledged dollars and number of pledges is less than 2015. Thank you all for your continued financial support of St. Mark's. Following is a chart recap our Way Forward Campaign results for the last five years.

Pledge Recapping

Way Forward Campaign Recap					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Pledges	103	98	97	90	86
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 174,404	\$ 162,792	\$ 167,766	\$ 182,044	\$ 173,763
Average Pledge	\$ 1,693	\$ 1,661	\$ 1,730	\$ 2,023	\$ 2,021
New Pledges	2	3	5	5	3
Increased Pledges	49	26	41	32	34
Decreased Pledge This Year	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

Sustainability/Collaboration Update

During the 2016 Way Forward Campaign I included a note in the Lion's Pause titled "Note from your treasure". In that note I stated the following:

- A deficit budget is not necessarily a bad thing. However, deficit budgets without a recovery plan are not financially sustainable.
- St. Mark's has funds to maintain our present operations, and to fund a recovery plan.
- The questions are how long will the funds last and what is the recovery plan.
- The people elected to the Vestry in January 2016 and January 2017 will be making decisions that will significantly impact whether St. Mark's is here in the future.
- I have no idea what that looks like but I do know that the present business process is not sustainable for the long run.

In the spring of 2015 I called David Lewis the treasurer of St. Paul's. When he answered the phone he said he was going to call me because he had been on our web site and had read a comment at one of our annual meetings about sharing with St. Paul's. At the time of my call, we were also using the same financial person. David and I had some phone conversations and met twice through the summer. In May or June I mentioned to the St. Mark's vestry that I had been in contact with David Lewis. Following is a timeline and status of events since those initial conversations.

1. October 17, 2015 Jump Start Ohio Conference - sponsored by the diocese.
 - Dave Thorley, Ten Gall, Gary Giammarco, Joe Hoot, Dustin Berg, and I attended the conference.
 - Conference attendees were open and forthright in discussing each of their church financial concerns.
 - There was considerable discussion about alternative building use and collaborative ventures.
 - On the way home we agreed to contact St. Paul's and to request their support contacting St. Timothy's and New Life.
2. October 29, 2015 St. Mark's and St. Paul's Senior Wardens, Treasurer, and Clergy meeting
 - We agreed to jointly approach St. Timothy's and New Life requesting them to join us - Request diocesan support and guidance exploring the possibilities of a local community Jump Start type conference to identify:
 1. Our individual parish financial viability and sustainability
 2. Our individual and/or combined opportunities to improve our sustainability.
3. January 17, 2016 Initial meet and greet meeting - the four churches and Brad Purdom
 - 18 people from St. Timothy's, St. Paul's, New Life and St. Mark's (including Ten Gall, Joe Hoot, Gary Giammarco, and Charlie Kiesling) met to meet each other and **start the conversation** about the possibility of working together and helping each other.
 - As requested, the meeting was led by Brad Purdom. Brad pointed out that it's not only about finances - we need to review and enhance our congregational life, our spiritual life, our mission and our financial sustainability.
 - After a brief discussion he ask each of us to talk about our churches. Our issues are similar and our love and concern for our parish families and buildings are the same. I think our goals are basically the same and we are all struggling with the same issues.
 - Considerable discussion about leadership (laity and clergy), parish vitality, collaboration, and timing.
 - Next step - Each parish to consider the following proposal and come to a meeting February 20th.

Two year study/development and implementation plan

Five 6 hour Saturday meetings during the first 8 months (one every other month)

Four month implementation and reviews

Second year 2 meetings to review 6 month plans

The meeting went very well. The discussions were open and frank. There appeared to be considerable interest in moving forward with the discussion and there were **No Plans to Merge or Close Any Churches.**

Whatever your thoughts and feeling are about working together with St. Paul's, St. Timothy's and New Life, please talk with your vestry members. This will be a significant discussion at the February vestry meeting.

Vestry Candidates 2016

For the 1-year term:

- Geoff Gordon

For the 2-year term:

- Jane King

For the 3-year terms (4 are to be elected):

- Kate Mozingo
- Rhonda Warren
- Charlie Kiesling
- Bruce Hixon
- Tony Keenan
- Don Lovgren
- Beth Crowl
- Anne Coen



Charles Kiesling:

I am a cradle Episcopalian, attended St. Paul's Canton for 41 years. MaryAnn and I were transferred to Michigan by the Ford Motor Co. in 1988, where we attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brighton Mi. and St. James Episcopal Church in Dexter Mi. In 2009 I retired and we moved back to Ohio and joined St. Mark's. I have served on the vestry at three churches: St. Paul's Canton, St. Paul's Brighton, and St. Mark's (MaryAnn handled the vestry duties at St. James). After a year of tutoring by Gary Mull, I have served as St. Mark's Treasurer for the last three years. My vision for St. Mark's is to create an environment

where we can further our mission: "We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education and service." I respectfully ask for your vote for the St. Mark's Vestry.

Geoff Gordon:

Bobbi and I joined St. Mark's twenty years ago because of the very active youth programs, which we wanted for Derek. Over this time, I have been involved as Senior Warden (Vestry), Treasurer (Trustee), Usher, Grow-My-Church Committee, and Search Committee. I enjoy helping with Buildings and Grounds, as well as participating in the BeerMeister's events. I embrace our mission to *unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.* The Vestry must lead St. Marks in this mission with an eye on the present, as well as the future.





Bruce Hixon:

I am a retired sales representative, 67 years of age. I currently serve as Worship Leader, Eucharistic Minister, and Lector. As Head Lay Reader I prepare the Readings and Prayers each week for use by our Eucharistic Ministers. I also do the scheduling for our EMs. Outside the church I volunteer with the American Red Cross, serve as Vice President of the M Club at the University of Mount Union, and enjoy photography and genealogy. Most of all I enjoy spending time with Judy, my best friend and wife of 44 years. Together we enjoy our friends, travel, and Mount Union Athletics.

I have served on three previous vestries, including four years as Senior Warden. I also served on the Grow My Church committee.

It has been and continues to be my belief that St. Mark's needs to be more visibly involved in the Stark County community. We must be involved in the work of caring for those people who have been marginalized by society. We should be seeking alliances with other churches and charities in the community to carry out this ministry. We need to revisit the recommendations of the Grow My Church Committee, determine if they are still relevant, and take whatever actions are appropriate.

We must also find ways to address our financial situation through careful stewardship of our funds, and finding other sources of income through utilization of our facilities.

Jane King:

I have been married for 53 years and have a daughter, a son, and 7 grandchildren. I have my Master's Degree in Education and taught for 27 years in the public school and 4 years at St. Mark's Day Care. I have been a member of St. Mark's for close to 50 years and raised my two children in the church.

I believe my experiences serving as the Sunday School Superintendent for 10 years, been a past Vestry member, a chaperon to the youth group on a trip to St. Jude's Ranch in Nevada, teaching confirmation classes for several years, being a member of the Altar Guild in which I served as Co-President, attending several Diocesan Conventions as a representative from St. Mark's, working on many church dinners which support community outreach and being a member of ECW particularly interested in outreach, plus having finished my first year of EFM qualifies me to be a Vestry member at this time. I think my best gifts are that I can lead, I can follow, and I can compromise.

My vision for St. Mark's is to help lead the church into a future that supports our important ministries. I hope to expand outreach programs that St. Mark's can take on within the context of its congregation's abilities, and the church's location; and last I hope to instill the need of a spiritual environment instead of business environment.





Beth Crowl:

I am married to Rick and we have two children, Rachel who is in her second semester at BGSU and Justin a freshman at Green High School. I have been a member of St Marks since 1998. I was involved with the Sunday school program for about 8 years, helping with ages 4 to 8. Since 2008 I have owned and operated a very successful independent insurance agency.

I am detailed oriented and enjoy helping with problem solving. As a business owner I understand budgeting, marketing and the importance of customer service.

I would like to see St Marks continue to grow in membership, continue to grow its outreach programs in the community and stay connected with the diocese.

Raymond Keenan:

Lifelong Episcopalian as were both parents. I've been told my paternal grandfather was among the founders of an Episcopal church in Washington DC. Came to St Marks from St Paul's - Canton. Grew up in St Paul's - Akron. Retired as manager of commercial affairs - steel from Timken, now TimkenSteel Corp. Currently: prayer group coordinator
Former vestry member: (2011-2012)
Convention Delegate: 2014,2013,2011,2010,2009,2008,2007,2006,2005,2002.
Former Usher
Landscape and church maintenance prior to Scott Walton. Painted the brown entrance doors red (with rector's approval).
No significant skills or experience that would especially apply to vestry activities.
Vision is to see the church financially sound. See a contemporary service.



Rhonda Warren:

I am a long time member of St. Mark's having been confirmed into the Episcopal Church by Father Sloan in 1989. Over the years I have been the Editor of the Lion's Tale, a Sunday school teacher, a delegate to the convention several times, a Vestry member holding the positions of Secretary and Junior Warden. I currently participate in the Worship Committee, an usher, Chair of the Ministry Fair and new member of the Altar Guild. I bring the gifts of collaboration, negotiation and EFM studies, a 4 year graduate level program in Theology, History of the Church and Bible study. I have a heart for outreach. My vision for St. Mark's includes formation of a new EFM group at St. Mark's starting in September. I am also interested in a long term contract with an

organization to utilize our building on a regular basis for income. Organizations could include an adult day care center, a non-profit organization looking for office space, or use of our kitchen by a group such as Meals on Wheels. I believe we must sustain our financial base without tapping into the trust fund. I believe our outreach needs to be bigger and bolder to help the community in new ways. It would be an honor to serve on the Vestry again.



Kate Mozingo:

I have been a member at St. Mark's for seven years, along with my husband, Mike, who previously served on the vestry and serves as a lay reader.

Professionally, I work full time as a teacher of students with visual impairments in Stark County. Personally, we have two children, Silas and Joey, ages 6 and 1, respectively.

The gifts that I could bring to the vestry are my ability to work collaboratively. Students with disabilities receive services from a team of professionals, so much of my work involves team work and attention to detail. I also have a love of St. Mark's and dedication to helping our church thrive.

At this stage in my life, I don't have a lot of time to be the ground force behind the many awesome ministries St. Mark's participates in. My hope is that through my participation in the vestry, I can make a positive contribution to the life of our wonderful church community.

Anne Coen:

I have been a member of St. Mark's for 15 years after making the small leap from Roman Catholicism. This welcoming parish of ours has allowed me to serve as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Eucharistic Visitor, and Lay Preacher. I have also served 2 Vestry terms and have been a frequent delegate to our annual diocesan convention. At present, I am enjoying serving on the Bishop's Commission on Ministry. If you want to know what that is, (as I did), just ask me. Warning: long story.

Outside of St. Mark's, I am an adjunct faculty member at Kent State (Stark) University. I love to swim, to cook, to read good books, and to take long walks with my dog, James. Most in the world I love to entertain my children and grandchildren at home on Meyers Lake.

My prayer for St. Mark's is that we continue to grow in the love of Christ and that we make an effort to reach out to our sister parishes in the area. There are so many ways that we can pull together for the good of our community. I feel that in doing so, our parish will continue to grow and to thrive. If called to serve on this vestry, I will happily do so.



Don Lovgren: no photo or information submitted.



www.facebook.com/StMarksCanton
www.twitter.com/StMarksCanton
Instagram: @StMarksCanton

To sign up
for text alerts:



The Rev. Dustin Berg: dberg@stmarks-canton.org
Office Manager: Katie Kuceyeski office@stmarks-canton.org
Organist/Choir Director: Bob Morrison wrmorrison@sssnet.com
Nursery Attendant: Riley Kiesling

NOTES:

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of approximately 25 horizontal lines.

ADDITION TO REPORT

Altar Guild Report for 2015

Receipts - Flower Donations 2015 inc Easter Lilies and Poinsettias --\$2,345.00

Expense - Plant for Columbarium -- \$ 43.75

Linens - Kanel Bros	300.00
Refurbish Cross - Hennigers	1000.00
Supplies Wster & Towels	14.10
Cathy Cowgill - Flowers	2006.25
Total	1357.85

Currently we have 10 active members. Each member signs up for 3 months.

We are responsible for setting up the altar for 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist service and clean up after Sunday services, Also special services -- weddings, baptisms, funeral etc.

We would love to have more members.

Respectfully submitted,
Emilie Korosi